

Hofmann

CHRIST PREACHING FROM A BOAT

The Abingdon Religious Education Texts

David G. Downey, General Editor

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THE BIBLE IN GRADED STORY

For use in Week-Day Schools of Religion, Church Vacation Day Schools
and in Home Training

Volume Two THE GOOD NEIGHBOR

BY
CLARA BELLE BAKER
AND
EDNA DEAN BAKER



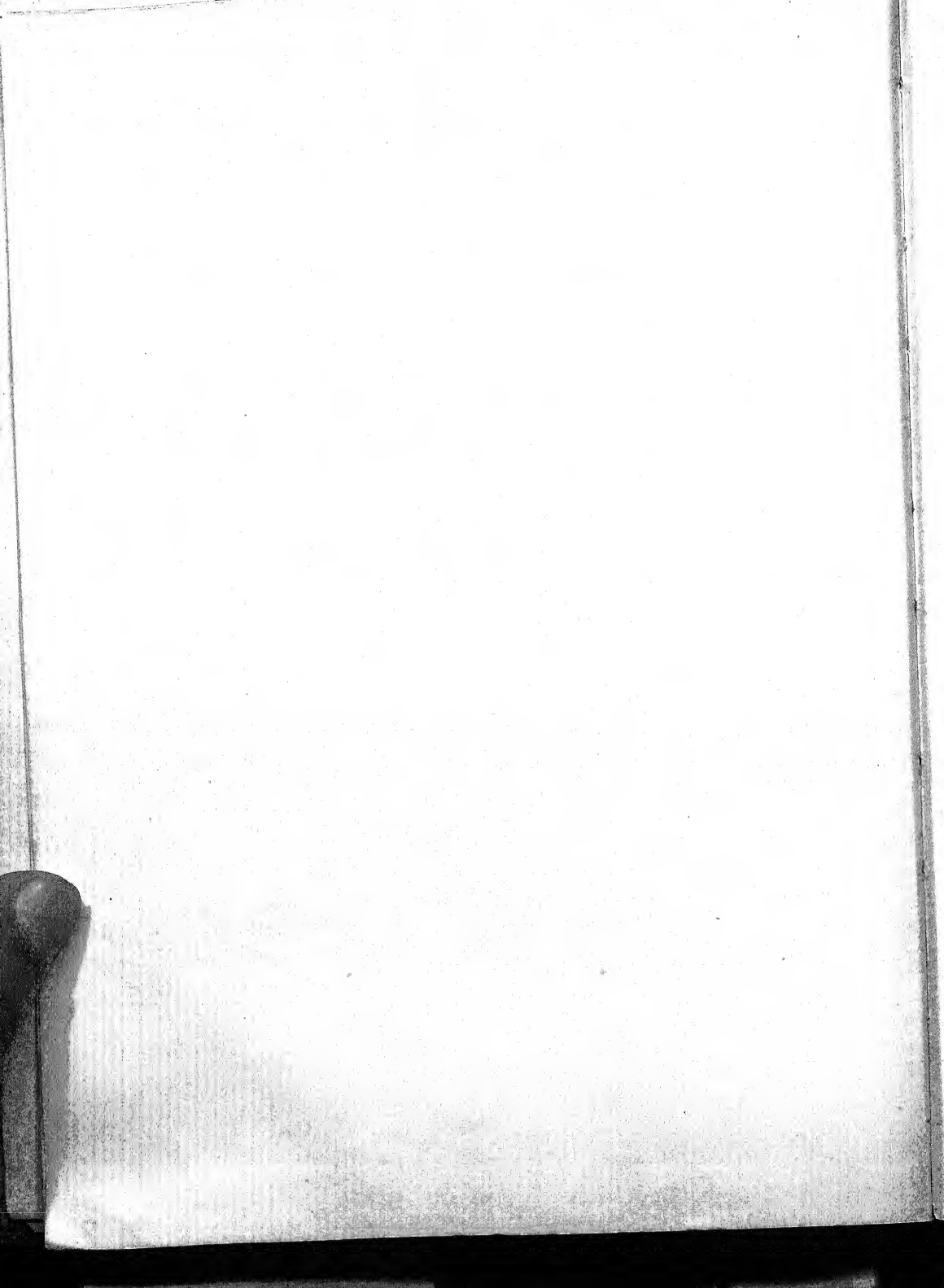
THE ABINGDON PRESS
NEW YORK CINCINNATI

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Printed in the United States of America

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

WITH all the fine content now going into American education one of the richest sources of materials is but inadequately used: the mass of our children are growing up ignorant of the Bible. Omitted from public education, neglected in the homes, inadequately taught in the Sunday school, this great instrument of spiritual inspiration and ethical guidance is in danger of losing its influence because of neglect.

The remedy is simple. Children love stories. They love Bible stories best of all. For in no other place can stories of such rare simplicity, such poetic diction, such beautiful imagery, such appealing charm be found. Here at hand is a rich storehouse ready to be opened to the waiting mind and heart of childhood. Give the children freely of the stories of the Bible, and there will be no danger but that they will read its loved pages when they grow older.

But the storehouse of Bible stories has to be unlocked. The treasures of the Bible were not originally prepared with the child in mind; its rugged tales were not written for the young to read. Its matchless stories must be selected and put in order for the young learner. They must be suited to his understanding and graded to his ability. Their language must be brought within his powers of speech. Their lessons must be adapted to his range of experience and needs.

Many are called but few are chosen when it comes to

opening up this rich storehouse for children. Numerous books of Bible stories have been offered. None of them has attained the wide use which the importance of the basic materials warrants. Some have failed because they adhered too closely to an extended biblical narrative too complex for the child to follow; and some because they departed completely from the beautiful and dignified biblical story and presented a weak substitute in indifferent modern English lacking in imagery and devoid of charm. Still others have failed because they did not select and grade the stories in accordance with age and interest of childhood.

The authors of the present volume have, the editor believes, struck a new note in the adaptation of Bible stories. They have kept the stories to a proper length for the child of six to eight. While retaining the simple poetic effect of the biblical phrasing, they have simplified sufficiently to bring the language easily within the grasp of the child. They have so selected the themes of the stories that they fit into the range of interest and experience of this age. They have distributed the themes widely, showing God at work in the life of nature as well as in the lives of men. They have represented both the Old and the New Testament materials. They have presented the stories in a rarely beautiful form and style, *adapted to childhood.*

It is with much satisfaction that the editor presents this new volume of Bible stories, believing as he does that they will meet a pressing need in the various types of church schools, in the home and, as reading books, in the public schools.

AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

No stories in literature have a greater appeal for the child in the grades than the stories of the Bible. They have been little used in our schools, however, because the work of preparing them for the classroom has depended upon the individual teacher.

"The Bible in Graded Story" puts these fascinating stories in a form that can be readily used in the elementary school both in the story hour and in the reading period, for religious education and for literary appreciation. In subject matter the stories have been graded to meet the interests of various ages; in form they are simple enough always for the child who will receive them.

The present volume is intended for the years from six to eight, when children are especially interested in nature, in home and community relationships, and in the problems of simple living.

The stories given here are rich in nature material. They tell of animals and rocks and waters and stars. They tell also of brave and kindly deeds, of mutual love and helpfulness between parent and child, between friend and neighbor. Above all, they tell constantly of a good God who provides for his children food and shelter and protection from danger.

For children of this age the stories cannot always be

taken directly from the Bible, because the Bible narrative is sometimes too long and too difficult and sometimes too meager. It is unfortunate, however, that in the retelling we lose often the directness and vividness of the Bible narrative, the simplicity and rhythmic beauty of the Bible diction. The stories in this volume have been made simple enough to come within the understanding of the primary child, but at the same time the language and the form of the original Bible narrative have been preserved.

These stories may either be told or read to the children. Children at this age are learning to read, and it is an encouragement to them to hear some stories read. It is desirable also that they become familiar with the language of the book, which has greater dignity and precision than the colloquial language used too often in stories told. The quaint and beautiful English of the Bible narrative helps to create that feeling of awe and wonder which should accompany the Bible story.

The stories in this volume are not more difficult than those contained in some second and third readers, and may also be used for the children's reading. If the children are to read, it is still desirable that the parent or teacher read the story aloud first. The quaint and picturesque style, the rhythmic phrasing, the parallelism of successive paragraphs will be more enjoyed by the children if they hear the story first. Moreover, Bible stories are so rich in imagery, and contain so many novel elements that they will bear much repetition.

Spontaneous conversation about the story should be encouraged. It is well for the teacher or mother to ask

a question occasionally to make sure that the children understand the unusual words, and comprehend the significance of events. No attempt, however, should be made to point the moral, or to apply it to the child's life. The Bible story conveys simply and powerfully its own lesson.

NOTE.—Thanks are due Houghton Mifflin Company for permission to reprint "Spring," by Celia Thaxter; Little, Brown & Company for "September," by Helen Hunt Jackson; the Westminster Press for two prayers from Children's Devotions, by Gerrit Verkuyl.



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Baer

THE BIRD'S NEST

I

LET THERE BE LIGHT

IN the beginning there were no people upon the earth, and no animals, neither fish in the sea nor birds in the air nor beasts upon the land. There were no trees and no flowering plants and no green grass. There was no light, neither sun in the day nor moon and stars at night. The earth itself was without form and void, like a great rolling ocean, and darkness was upon the waters.

But God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. And God made two great lights, the sun to rule the day, and the moon to rule the night: he made the stars also.

God said, "Let the waters be gathered together at one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. God called the dry land earth; and the gathering together of the waters he called seas.

God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, and plants bearing flowers and trees bearing fruits"; and it was so. The earth brought forth grass and plants bearing flowers and trees bearing fruits.

God said, "Let the waters bring forth fishes, and let birds fly above the earth in the heavens." And God made great whales and every creature that moves in the waters and every winged thing that moves in the air.

God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures, cattle and creeping things, and every kind of beast." And God made the beasts of the earth, the cattle and everything that creeps upon the earth.

Then God created men in his own likeness; men and

women he created. And God said, "I have made you to rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the living things upon the earth. I have given you the plants and the fruit of the trees for food."

And children came to live with the men and women upon the earth. The children played on the grass, and smelled the flowers, and ate the fruit of the trees. They watched the fish in the water and the birds in the air and the beasts upon the earth. They saw the sun shining by day, and the moon and stars shining by night. And the children thanked God and were glad. (Genesis 1. 1.)

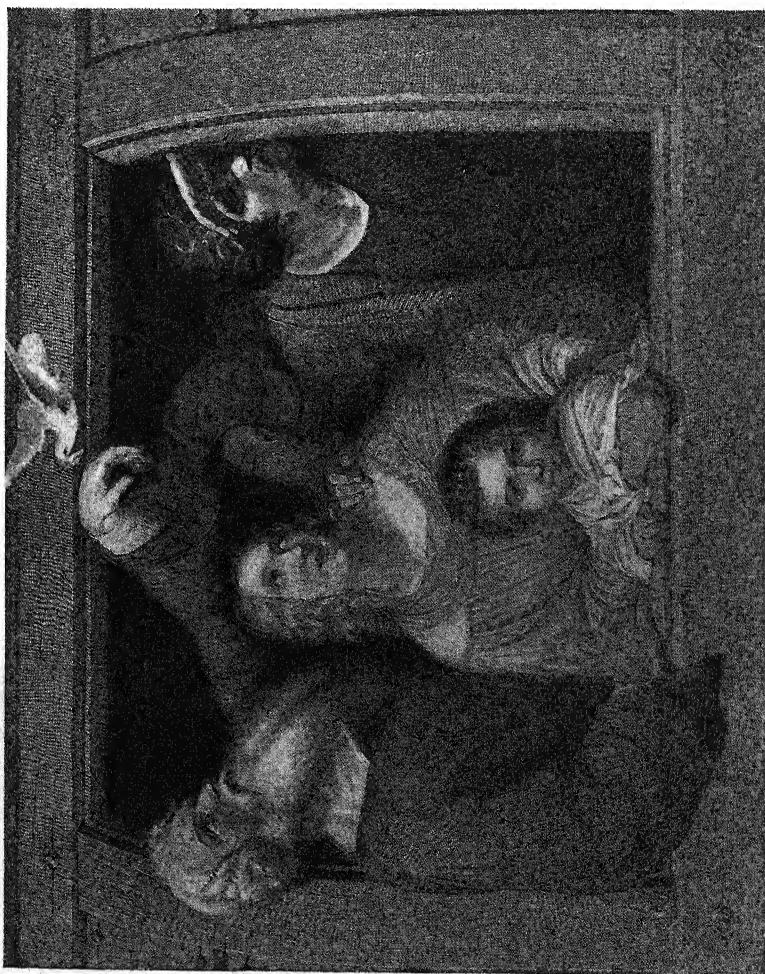
The alder by the river
Shakes out her powdery curls;
The willow buds in silver
For little boys and girls.

The little birds fly over,
And, oh, how sweet they sing!
To tell the happy children
That once again 'tis spring.

The gay green grass comes creeping
So soft beneath their feet;
The frogs begin to ripple
A music clear and sweet.

Here blows the warm red clover,
There peeps the violet blue;
O happy little children,
God made them all for you!

—*Celia Thaxter.*



NOAH

Oppenheim

II

THE BOW IN THE CLOUD

THERE was once a great rain upon the earth. The rain fell so fast and so long that all the earth was covered with water and everything upon the earth was destroyed. Now, before the great rain came, there was living upon the earth a good man whose name was Noah. God told Noah that the great flood of waters was coming, and that everything on the earth would be destroyed.

God said to Noah, "Make an ark of wood; make rooms in the ark, and pitch it within and without with pitch. Make a window in the ark, and set a door in the side. Make it with lower, second, and third stories. Come into the ark, with thy sons and thy wife and thy sons' wives with thee. Of every living thing, two of every kind bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee, of birds and of cattle and of every creeping thing upon the earth. Take with thee all food that is eaten, and it shall be food for thee and for them."

Noah did all that God told him. He made an ark of wood with rooms. He made a window in the ark, and he set a door in the side. He made it with three stories. Noah went in, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went with him into the ark. Of beasts and of birds and of everything that creeps upon the earth there went in two and two with Noah into the ark. And he took with him every kind of food that is eaten.

Then the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened, and the rain came. For forty days and forty nights the rain fell upon

the earth. The waters rose upon the earth, but the ark went upon the top of the waters. The bushes were covered and the tall trees were covered, but the ark went above the tall trees. The hills under the whole heaven were covered, and the high mountains were covered, but the ark went above the high mountains. Everything upon the earth was destroyed, but Noah remained alive. Safe and dry he rode in the ark above the trees and the hills and the mountains—Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives and every living thing that was in the ark. The waters remained upon the earth a hundred and fifty days.

Then came a wind over the earth. The windows of heaven were stopped and the rain from heaven ceased. The ark rested on the top of a mountain. Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. He sent forth a dove to see if the waters had left the ground. But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned to him in the ark, for the waters were on the whole earth. Then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her into the ark.

Noah waited seven more days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. The dove came in to him in the evening, and lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off. So Noah knew that the waters were lower upon the earth.

He waited seven more days, and sent forth the dove, which returned not again to him any more. Then Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and lo, the face of the ground was dry!

God spoke to Noah saying, "Go forth from the ark,

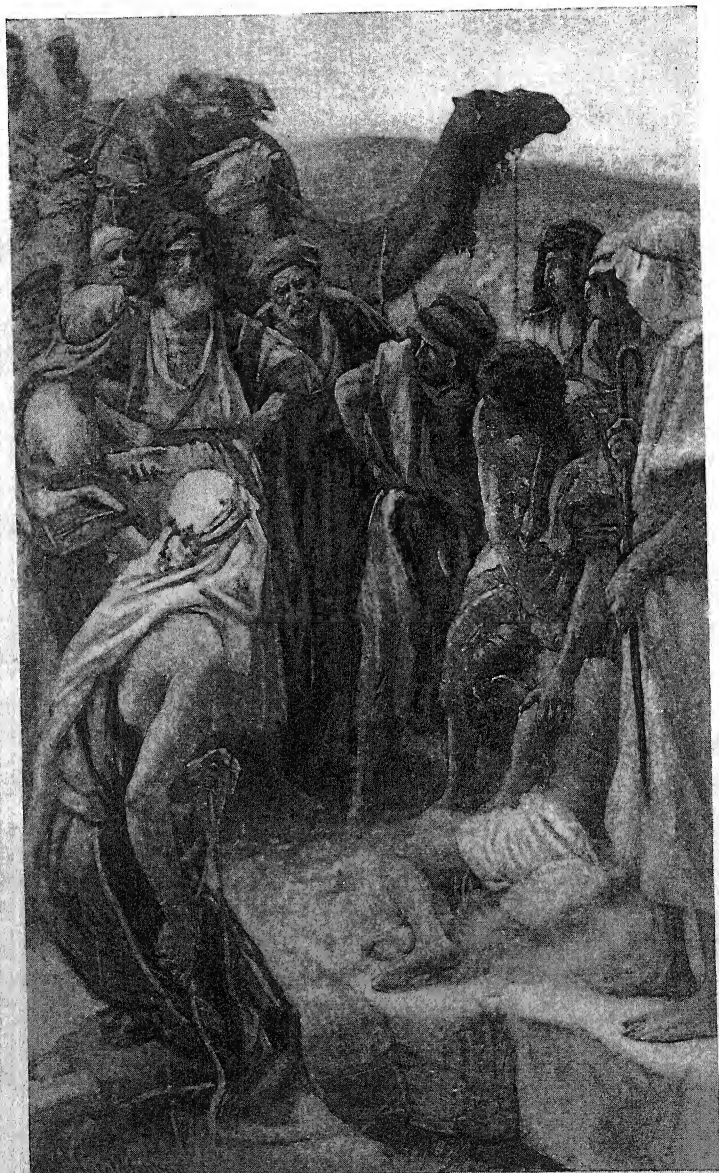
and thy wife and thy sons and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every beast and every bird and every creeping thing."

Noah went forth, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird went forth out of the ark. Then Noah thanked God for his goodness.

God said, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth."

And God said, "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a promise between me and the earth. When a cloud comes over the earth, the bow shall be seen in the cloud. And I will remember my promise between me and you and every living creature: the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy the earth."

As Noah looked, the cloud parted and the sun shone through; and in the cloud was a gleaming rainbow.
(Genesis 6. 12.)



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THE SELLING OF JOSEPH

III

THE TWELVE BROTHERS

JACOB had twelve sons, but he loved Joseph more than all his children, and he made him a coat of many colors. When the brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak kindly to him.

The brothers went to feed their father's flock in the field. They were gone for many days. Jacob said to Joseph, "Do not your brothers feed the flock in the field? Come, and I will send you to them."

Joseph answered, "Here am I."

Then Jacob said, "Go, see whether it be well with your brothers, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again."

So he sent him away. Joseph went after his brothers and found them.

When they saw him afar off, they said one to another, "Behold, Joseph comes, with his coat of many colors. Come now, let us slay him, and cast him into some pit. We will say, 'Some evil beast has devoured him.'"

But one brother said, "Let us not kill him, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness."

When Joseph came to his brothers they stripped him of his coat, the coat of many colors that he wore. They took him, and cast him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat bread. They lifted up their eyes and looked, and behold, a band of travelers came from a far country with their camels bearing spices

and perfumes. They were going to carry the cargo down to Egypt.

Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we slay our brother? Come, let us sell him to the travelers."

And his brothers were content. They drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the travelers for twenty pieces of silver.

They took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid, and dipped the coat in the blood. Then they brought it to their father and said: "This have we found. Is it your son's coat or no?"

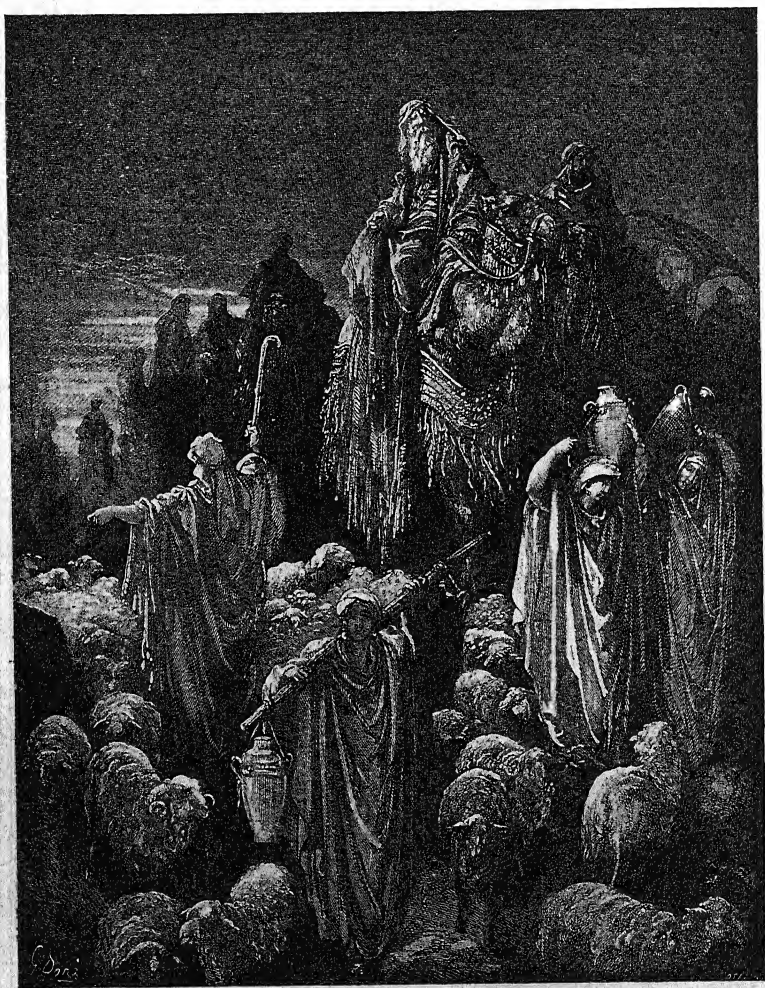
Jacob knew it, and said: "It is my son's coat. An evil beast has devoured him."

Jacob rent his clothes, and wept for his son many days. All his sons and all his daughters tried to comfort him, but he would not be comforted. He said, "I will go down into the grave mourning."

The travelers took Joseph to Egypt, and sold him to an officer of the king, the captain of the guard. But God was with Joseph, and gave him favor in the sight of the captain and the king. (Genesis 37.3.)

The morning bright,
With rosy light,
Has waked me from my sleep;
Father, I own
Thy love alone
Thy little one doth keep.

—*Hymns of Worship and Service.*



JACOB GOING DOWN INTO EGYPT

Doré

IV

THE SILVER CUP

JOSEPH lived for many years in Egypt. He was made the keeper of the prison. God was with him, and whatever he did, God made it to prosper.

One day, Pharaoh the king, said to Joseph: "There is none so careful and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and by your word shall all my people be ruled."

Pharaoh took his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand. He clothed him in fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck. He made him to ride in the second chariot which he had. So Joseph was lord over all the land of Egypt.

Now, there was in Egypt more food than the people could eat, for the years were plentiful years. But Joseph knew that years of famine would come when the grain would not grow. So he gathered the food of the field, and laid it up in the cities. Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, for it was without number.

Then the plentiful years were ended, and the years of dearth began to come. The famine was in all lands. But Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the people. All countries came to Egypt to Joseph to buy corn.

Now, Jacob said to his sons: "I have heard that there is corn in Egypt. Go down there, and buy for us, that we may live."

So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy corn in Egypt. But Benjamin, Joseph's youngest brother, Jacob sent not.

Joseph's brothers came and bowed down themselves before him. Joseph knew his brothers, but they knew not him.

Joseph spoke roughly to them and said, "Why are you come?"

They said, "To buy food."

Joseph said, "You are spies; to see the bareness of the land you are come."

They said to him: "No, my lord, but to buy food are we come. We are twelve brothers, the sons of one man. The youngest is this day with our father, and one is not."

Joseph said, "Hereby you shall be proved. If you be true men and no spies, let one of your brothers be bound here in prison. Go, carry corn to your houses. But bring your youngest brother to me."

Then the brothers were sad. And they said one to another, "Because we did wrong against our brother Joseph, therefore is this sorrow come upon us."

But Joseph took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes. Then Joseph commanded his steward to fill their sacks with corn, and to put every man's money into his sack. The brothers loaded their asses with the corn and went away.

When they came to Jacob their father they told him all, saying: "The lord of the land took us for spies, and we said to him: 'We are true men; we are no spies. We are twelve brothers, sons of one man. The youngest is this day with our father, and one is not.' And the lord of the land said to us, 'If you be true men and no spies, let one be bound here in prison. Go, carry corn to your houses. But bring your youngest brother to me.'"

As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's money was in his sack! When they and their father saw the money they were afraid.

Jacob said: "Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and now you will take Benjamin away. My son shall not go down with you."

But when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, Jacob said, "Go again, buy us a little food."

The brothers answered, "If you will send Benjamin with us, we will go down and buy food. But if you will not send him, we will not go down; for the lord said, 'Bring your youngest brother.'"

Then Jacob said: "Carry down the man a present, a little honey, spices, and nuts. Take double money in your hand. Take also your brother. And God give you mercy."

The brothers took the present. They took double money and Benjamin, and they went to Egypt.

When Joseph saw Benjamin, he said to the ruler of his house, "Make ready, for these men shall dine with me at noon."

Then Joseph brought Simeon to them. All the brothers sat with Joseph at noon, and they ate and drank and were merry with him.

Joseph commanded the steward, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, and put every man's money in his sack. But put my cup, the silver cup, into the sack of the youngest."

As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their asses. But when they were not

yet far off the steward overtook them, and he said, "You have with you the silver cup from which my lord drinks."

But they said, "Should we steal out of your lord's house silver or gold? If the silver cup is found with us, we will be your bondmen."

Then the steward said: "Let it be so. He with whom it is found shall be my bondman."

Then they took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack. And the silver cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

They rent their clothes, and loaded every man his ass, and returned to the city. They came to Joseph's house, and they fell before him on the ground.

Judah said, "We have a father, an old man, and this lad he loves, for his brother is dead. If we come to my father, and the lad be not with us, he will die. Now I pray, let me stay instead of the lad a bondman here; and let the lad go with his brothers."

Joseph wept aloud, and he said: "I am Joseph. Does my father yet live?"

His brothers did not answer him, for they were afraid.

Then Joseph said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But God has made me lord of all Egypt. Haste and go up to my father, and tell him that God has made me lord of Egypt. Tell him to come down to me and dwell here near me with his children, and his flocks and his herds. And I will care for him."

Then Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept with them, and they talked together. (Genesis 41. 39.)

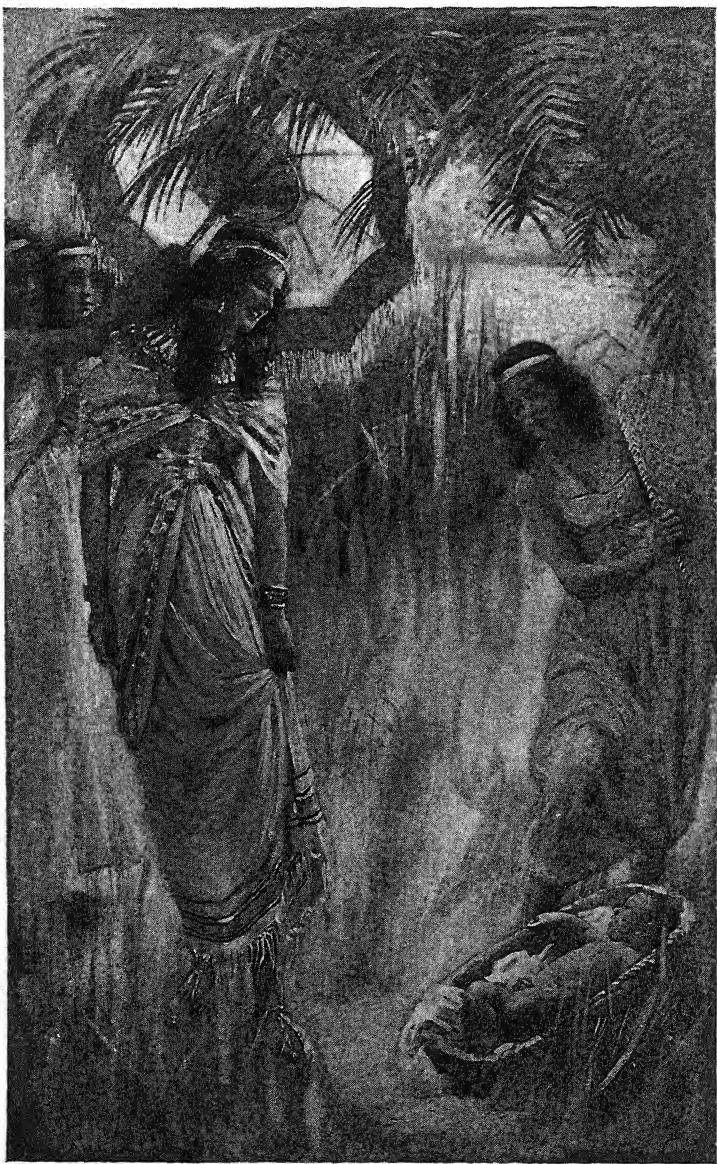
All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden—
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

—*Cecil Frances Alexander.*



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THE FINDING OF MOSES

V

THE ARK OF BULRUSHES

IN the land of Egypt there were many Hebrew people. The king of Egypt hated them because they were not his people. He set over them cruel taskmasters who whipped them and made them carry heavy burdens and build with bricks and mortar. One day the king charged all his people, saying, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews shall be cast into the river."

Now, there was among the Hebrew people a little girl called Miriam who had a baby brother. When Miriam and her mother heard the charge of the king they were afraid, and they hid the baby. For three months they hid him. When he grew so big that they could no longer hide him, they planned what they would do.

The mother said: "I will take an ark of bulrushes, and daub it with pitch. I will put the baby inside and lay it in the flags by the river's brink."

So she took an ark of bulrushes and daubed it with pitch. She put the baby inside, and she laid it in the flags by the brink of the river. Then she said to Miriam, "Stand afar off, and watch what will be done to him."

So Miriam hid herself in the tall reeds by the river, and watched.

The daughter of the king came down to wash herself at the river. She and her maidens walked along by the river's side. When she saw the ark among the flags, she said to her maids, "Go, fetch it, and we shall see what lies within."

The maids brought the ark. When she had opened

it, she saw the child. The baby was afraid and he wept. The princess took pity on him, and said: "This is one of the Hebrew babies. He is a goodly child. We must care for him."

When Miriam heard these words she was glad. She came running from her hiding place, and said to the princess, "Shall I go and call for you a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

The king's daughter said to her, "Go."

Miriam went and called the baby's mother. The princess said to the mother, "Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give you wages." The mother took her baby, and nursed it.

The child grew, and the nurse brought him to the king's daughter, and he became her son. She called his name Moses, because she said, "I drew him out of the water." (Exodus 1. 8.)

Hush! the waves are rolling in,
White with foam, white with foam;
Father toils amid the din;
But baby sleeps at home.

Hush! the winds roar hoarse and deep—
On they come, on they come!
Brother seeks the wandering sheep;
But baby sleeps at home.

Hush! the rain sweeps o'er the knowes,
Where they roam, where they roam;
Sister goes to seek the cows;
But baby sleeps at home.

-Gaelic Lullaby.



THE ISRAELITES GOING OUT OF EGYPT

Veronese

VI

THE PILLAR OF FIRE

MOSES grew up at the palace of the king, as the son of the king's daughter, but he loved his own people. When Moses went out to walk he saw his people bearing heavy burdens; he saw them whipped by hard taskmasters; he heard their cry; and Moses was sad. But God heard their cry; he looked upon them and had pity for them.

God spoke to Moses and said, "I have seen the sorrow of my people which are in Egypt, and I have heard their cry. I will send thee to bring forth my people out of Egypt."

Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should bring forth thy people out of Egypt?"

But God said, "Certainly I will be with thee."

Moses gathered together all the Hebrew people and led them by night out of the land of Egypt. There were many hundreds of men and women and little children; and there were with them flocks and herds of cattle. They carried bread and their clothes upon their shoulders.

They went through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. God sent before them by day a pillar of a cloud, to show them the way; and by night a pillar of fire, to give them light. He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

It was told the king of Egypt that the people fled. King Pharaoh was angry and said: "Why have we done this? Why have we let these people go from serving us?"

He made ready his chariot, and took his army with

him. He took six hundred chariots, and captains over every one of them. He went after Moses and his people—King Pharaoh with all his horses and chariots, his horsemen and his army. He overtook them by the sea.

When Pharaoh drew near, the Hebrew people lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them! And they were afraid.

But Moses said to the people: "Fear not; stand still. The Lord shall fight for you."

Then the pillar of the cloud went from before their faces and stood behind them. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of the Hebrews; so that the one came not near the other all the night.

Then the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. The Hebrew people went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground. The waters were on their right hand and on their left. And they walked upon dry land across the sea.

The Egyptians went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. But the chariots sunk in the soft earth, and the chariot wheels came off. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea. There was left not so much as one of them!

Thus the Hebrew people were saved from the hand of the Egyptians; and they feared the Lord and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses. (Exodus 3. 7; 13. 18.)

Good night! Good night!
Far flies the light;
But still God's love
Shall flame above,
Making all bright.
Good night! Good night!

—*Unknown.*

him. He took six hundred chariots, and captains over every one of them. He went after Moses and his people—King Pharaoh with all his horses and chariots, his horsemen and his army. He overtook them by the sea.

When Pharaoh drew near, the Hebrew people lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them! And they were afraid.

But Moses said to the people: "Fear not; stand still. The Lord shall fight for you."

Then the pillar of the cloud went from before their faces and stood behind them. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of the Hebrews; so that the one came not near the other all the night.

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—*Unknown.*



MOSES SMITING THE ROCK

Murillo

VII

THE FOUNTAIN IN THE ROCK

THE Hebrew people came a long way out of Egypt. They traveled for many weeks. They crossed the Red Sea and came into a wilderness. The bread which they brought from Egypt was gone. In the wilderness they found no food, neither bread nor meat.

The people said to Moses, "You have brought us forth into this wilderness, to die of hunger."

Then said the Lord to Moses, "Behold, at even ye shall eat meat; and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God."

It came to pass, that at even the quails came up to the camp in great flocks and lighted on the ground. The people ate them for meat. In the morning the dew lay round about the camp. When the dew was gone, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. When the people saw it, they knew not what it was.

Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. Gather of it every man as much as he needs, for himself and for them which are in his tents."

The people did so, and gathered, some more, some less. They gathered every man according to his need. And they called the name of the food "manna." It was like seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. The people ate the manna and were filled.

But there was no water for the camp. The people gathered about Moses, saying, "Have you brought us

into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die here? This is no place of trees or of vines; neither is there any water to drink."

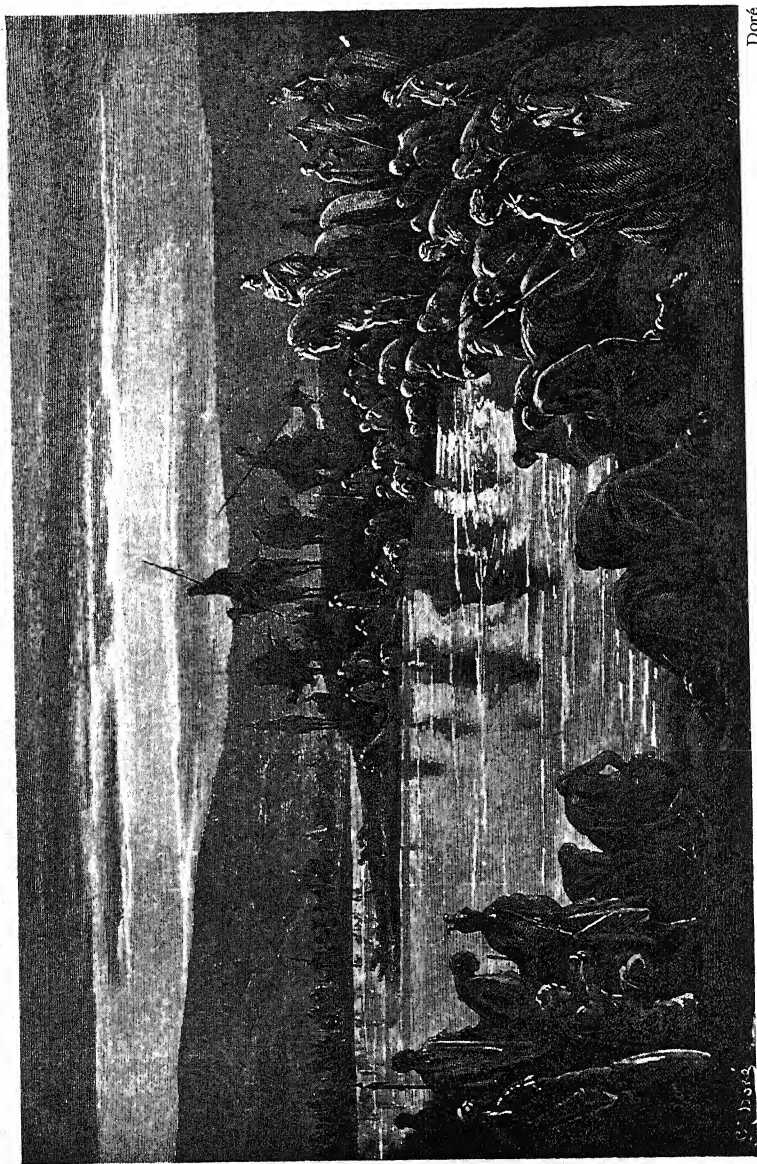
Then the Lord spake to Moses, saying, "Take thy rod, and gather the people together. Strike the rock before their eyes, and it shall give forth water. So shall the people and their cattle drink."

Then Moses gathered the people together before the rock. Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he struck the rock twice. The water came out abundantly, and the people drank, and their cattle also. Then the people knew that God was with them. (Exodus 16. 12; 17. 2.)

Lord, teach a little child to pray,
And, oh, accept my prayer!
Thou hearest every word I say,
For thou art everywhere.

A little sparrow cannot fall
Unnoticed, Lord, by thee,
And though I am so young and small,
Thou dost take care of me.

—*Primary and Junior Hymnal*. Used by permission.



Doré

GIDEON CHOOSES HIS SOLDIERS

VIII

THE BATTLE OF THE PITCHERS

THE Hebrew people were encamped on a high hill. There came a host of armed Midianites and camped in the valley below. The Midianites planned to capture the Hebrews to make servants of them.

There was among the Hebrew people a man of valor, whose name was Gideon.

The Lord looked upon him, and said, "Go, and thou shalt save thy people from the hand of the Midianites."

Gideon said: "O my Lord, how shall I save my people? Behold, my family is poor, and I am the least in my father's house."

But the Lord said to him, "Surely, I will be with thee."

Then Gideon gathered together his men. The Lord said to him, "Take only those that are bold and wary. Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him return to his tent. Bring the others down to the water to drink, and try them there. Everyone that stands and laps the water with his tongue as a dog laps, take him with thee. But everyone that bows down upon his knees, send him back."

So Gideon brought down the people to the water. And the number that lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, were three hundred men. But all the rest bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

Then the Lord said to Gideon, "By three hundred men will I save Israel, and give the Midianites into thy hand."

So Gideon took the three hundred wary men, and sent all the rest every man to his tent.

Then Gideon and the three hundred men took food in

their hands and their trumpets, and went down at night to the camp of armed men. The Midianites lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude. Their camels were without number, as the sand by the seaside.

Gideon divided the three hundred men into three companies. He put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers and lamps within the pitchers. He told them to stand every man in his place round about the camp.

He said to them, "Look on me. And behold, when I come to the camp, as I do, so shall you do. When I blow with a trumpet, then blow you the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, 'The sword of the Lord and of Gideon.' "

So Gideon and they that were with him came to the camp of the Midianites.

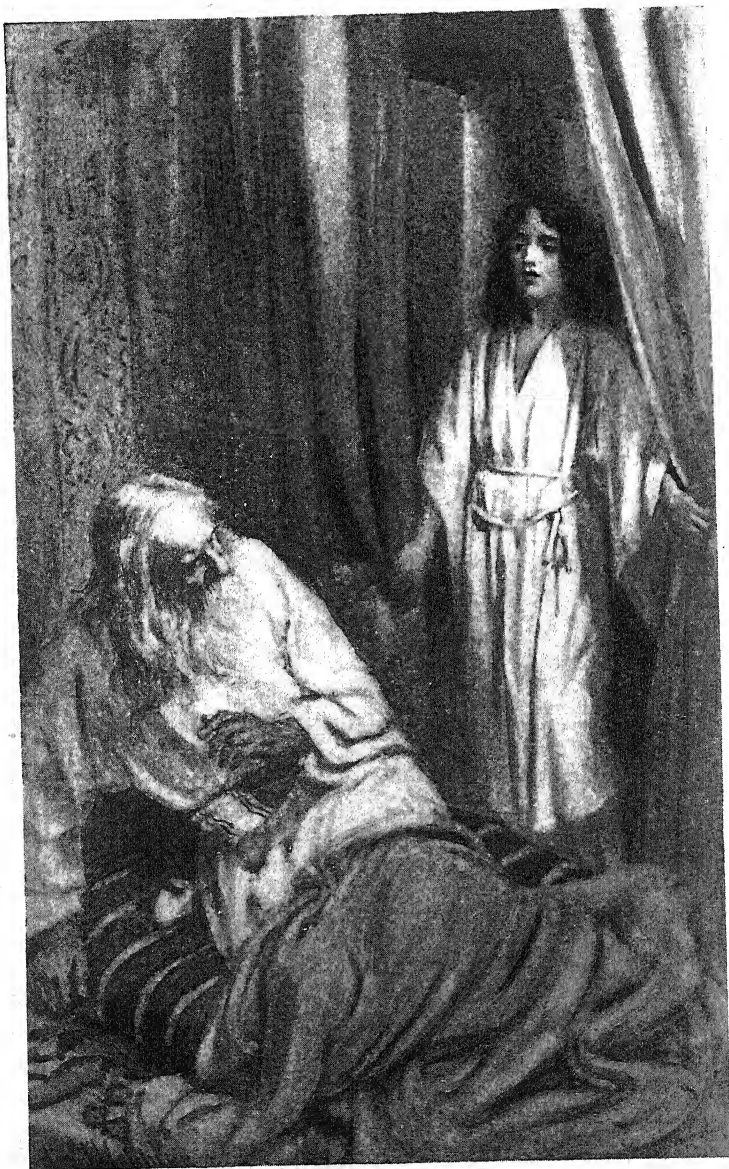
Then Gideon and the three companies all blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers. They held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow. And they cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

When the host of the Midianites heard the blast of the trumpets and saw the lamps burning round about the camp, they cried out and fled.

Then the men of Gideon gathered themselves together and ran after the Midianites.

Thus were the people saved from the hand of the Midianites by the help of God and the valor of his servant Gideon. (Judges 6. 12; 7. 7.)

Guide us, Father, by thy hand;
Help us follow thy command;
Every day we want to show
Whom we love and serve and know.
—*Gerrit Verkuyl.*



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SAMUEL AND ELI

IX

SAMUEL! SAMUEL!

ELKANAH had a wife, Hannah, but no children. Hannah went to the house of the Lord, and prayed for a son. When a baby came to her she called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the Lord."

When she had weaned him she took him with her to the house of the Lord. She took also gifts, three bullocks and a sack of flour and a bottle of wine. She brought the child to the priest Eli, and she said: "O Eli, I am the woman that stood here, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has given me what I asked. Therefore I will lend him to the Lord. As long as he lives shall he be lent to the Lord."

So Samuel lived in the temple and served, being a child. His mother made him a little coat each year, and brought it to him, when she came with her husband to pray at the temple.

Now Eli had two sons, who did many evil things in the land. He said to them: "Why do you such things? I hear of your deeds from all the people. My sons, it is no good report that I hear. You make the people to do wrong."

But the two sons listened not to the voice of their father. Samuel, however, listened always to Eli, and did what the Lord wished him to do. So Samuel grew, and was in favor both with the Lord, and also with men.

One night before the lamp went out in the temple, when Samuel was laid down to sleep, the Lord called, "Samuel." He answered, "Here am I."

Then he ran to Eli, and said, "Here am I, for you called me." But Eli said, "I called not; lie down again." The child went and lay down.

The Lord called yet again, "Samuel!" Samuel rose and went to Eli, and said, "Here am I; for you did call me." But Eli answered, "I called not, my son; lie down again."

The Lord called Samuel again the third time. He arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here am I; for you did call me."

Then Eli knew that the Lord had called the child. Therefore Eli said: "Go, lie down. If he call, you must say, 'Speak, Lord; for thy servant hears.'"

So Samuel went and lay down. The Lord came, and called as at other times, "Samuel, Samuel." Then Samuel answered, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant hears."

The Lord said to Samuel: "Behold, I will judge the house of Eli for the evil deeds of his sons. The house of Eli shall be punished."

Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the temple. He feared to tell Eli what the Lord had said. Then Eli called Samuel, and said, "Samuel, my son." The boy answered, "Here am I."

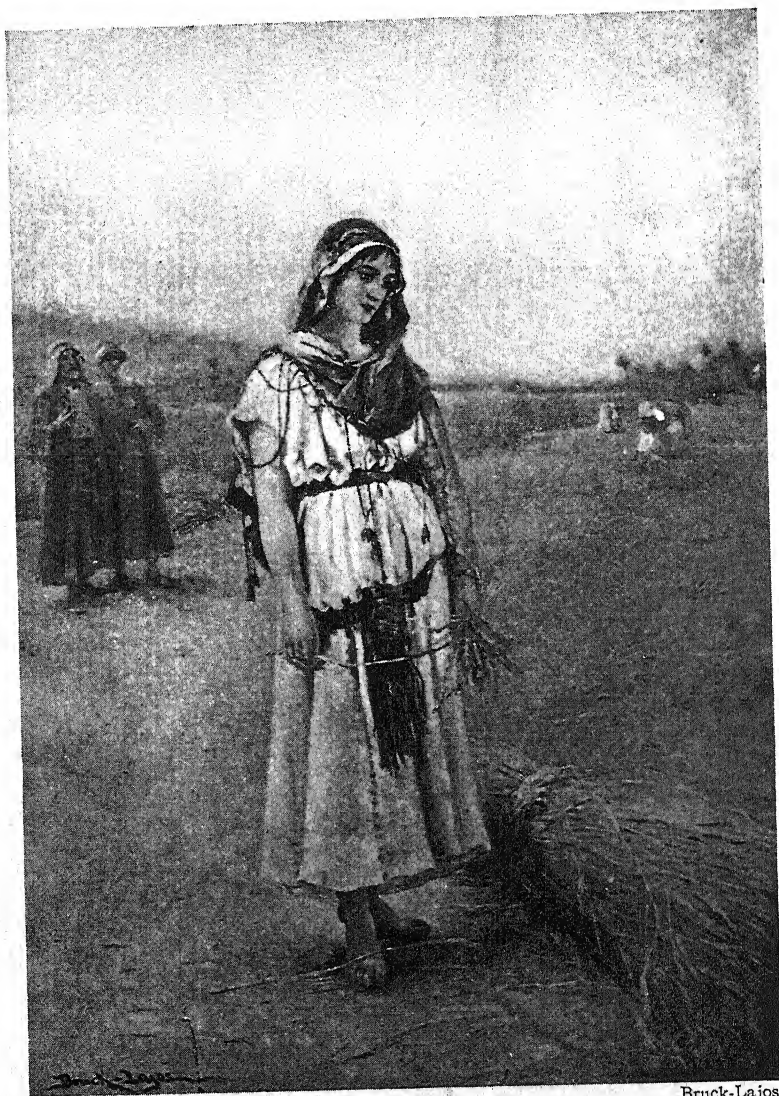
Eli said, "What is the thing that the Lord has said? I pray you, hide it not from me."

Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing. Eli said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good."

And the Lord was with Samuel. When Eli was the priest no longer, Samuel became the priest in the temple, in place of Eli's sons. (1 Samuel 1. 1.)

Father, help me through this day
In my work and in my play
Both to love and to obey.

—*Adapted.*



RUTH

Bruck-Lajos

X

AFTER THE GLEANERS

NAOMI's husband was dead, and her two sons. But Ruth, her daughter-in-law, lived with her, and Ruth loved Naomi. It was the beginning of the harvest, but Ruth and Naomi had no money to buy bread.

Ruth said to Naomi, "Let me now go to some field, and glean ears of corn. I may find favor with the owner of the field."

Naomi said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Ruth went, and came to a field, where reapers were. She spoke to the servant that was set over the reapers, and said, "I pray you, let me glean, and gather after the reapers among the sheaves."

So Ruth gleaned in the field, and gathered all the grain that the reapers left.

At noon, the owner of the field, Boaz, came to see the work. He said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you." They answered him, "The Lord bless you."

Then Boaz saw Ruth, and he said to his servant that was set over the reapers, "What damsel is this?"

The servant answered, "It is the damsel that lives with Naomi. She said, 'I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came, and has gleaned from the morning until now."

Then Boaz said to Ruth: "Hear, my daughter. Go not to glean in another field, neither go away, but stay here by my maidens. Let your eyes be on the field that they reap, and go after them. When you are thirsty, go to the vessels, and drink the water which the young men have drawn."

Ruth bowed herself to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, seeing I am a stranger?"

Boaz answered her: "It has been fully shown me, all that you have done for Naomi. A full reward be given you by the Lord God."

Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have spoken friendly to me."

Boaz said to her, "At mealtime come here, and eat with us."

So at noon Ruth sat beside the reapers. Boaz reached her parched corn, and she ate and was satisfied.

When she rose to glean, Boaz said to his reapers, "Let her glean among the sheaves, and forbid her not. Let fall also some handfuls on purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them."

So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out the grain that she had gleaned. She took it up and went into the city; and Naomi saw what she had gleaned.

Then Naomi said to her, "Where have you gleaned to-day? Blessed be he that has given you to glean in his field."

Ruth told her mother-in-law with whom she had gleaned, and said, "The man's name is Boaz."

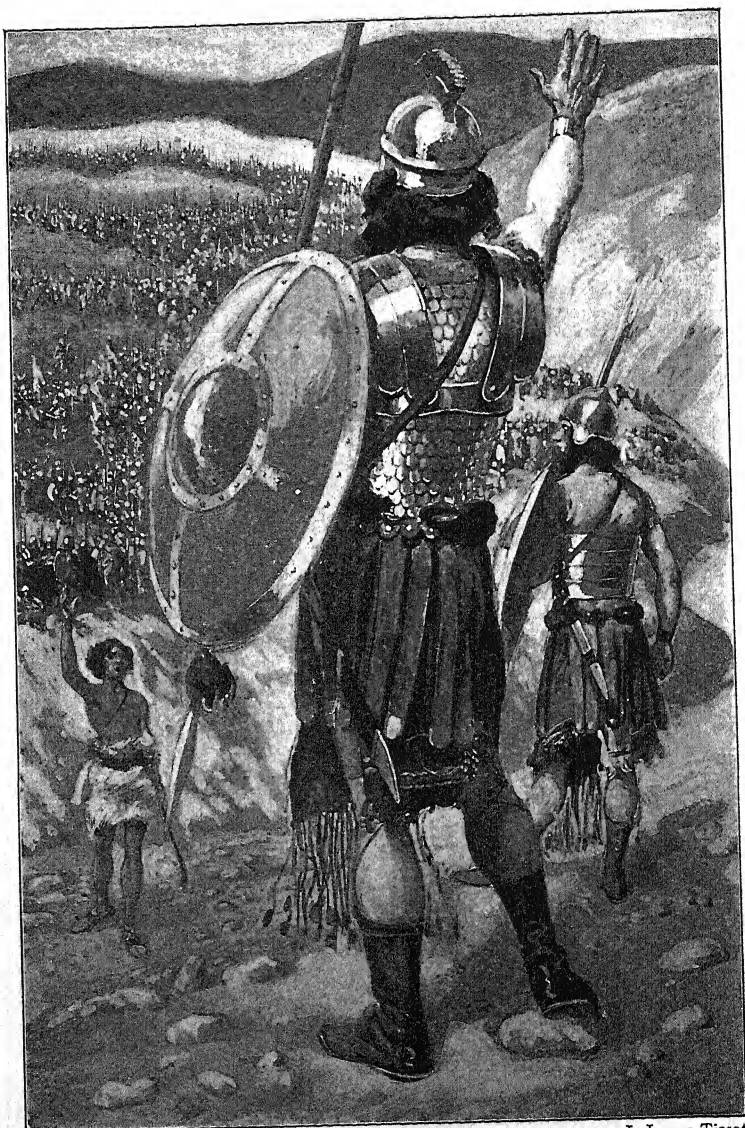
Naomi said to her: "Blessed be he of the Lord, who has not left off his kindness to the living. It is good, my daughter, that you go out each day with his maidens."

So Ruth kept by the maidens of Boaz until the end of the harvest. She dwelt with Naomi, and they had bread to eat. (Ruth 2. 1.)

The goldenrod is yellow,
The corn is turning brown,
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.

From dewy lanes at morning
The grapes' sweet odors rise;
At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies.

—*Helcn Hunt Jackson.*



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DAVID AND GOLIATH

XI

DAVID AND HIS SLING

JESSE had eight sons, and the youngest was David. The three eldest sons of Jesse followed King Saul to battle. But David stayed at home and watched his father's sheep on the hillside.

One day Jesse said to David his son, "Take now for your brothers some parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp. Carry also these ten cheeses to the captain, and look how your brothers fare."

Now, King Saul and all his men were fighting against the Philistines.

David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and went, as Jesse had told him. He came to the trench, as the host was going forth to fight. David ran into the army, and saluted his brothers. As he talked with them, behold, there came up a mighty man of the Philistines, Goliath by name, and demanded that some soldier of King Saul fight with him.

Goliath had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he wore a coat of mail. He had a shield of brass between his shoulders and he carried a great spear and a sword.

He stood and cried out in a loud voice: "I defy the army of King Saul this day. Give me a man that we may fight together!"

All the men of King Saul, when they saw Goliath and his shining armor, fled from him, and were afraid. Even David's brothers were afraid.

Then David said: "Let no man's heart fail because of him. I will go and fight with the Philistine."

Saul said to David, "You cannot go against this Phil-

istine to fight with him. You are but a boy, and he is a man of war."

But David said to Saul: "I kept my father's sheep, and there came a lion, and took a lamb out of the flock. And I went out and struck him, and saved the lamb out of his mouth. I slew both a lion and a bear."

And David said: "The Lord has saved me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear. He will save me out of the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

Then Saul gave David his armor. He put a helmet of brass upon David's head, and armed him with a coat of mail. David took Saul's sword, and tried to go. But the armor was too heavy.

David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these." And he put them off.

He took his staff with him. He chose five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had. His sling was in his hand.

When Goliath drew near David, and saw him, he was angry; for David was but a boy, ruddy and fair.

Goliath said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?"

David said: "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a shield. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts. This day will the Lord deliver you into my hand."

Then David ran to meet Goliath. He put his hand in his bag, and took out a stone and slung it, and struck Goliath in his forehead, so that he fell upon his face to the earth.

When the Philistines saw that Goliath was fallen, they fled. The men of Saul rose and shouted and ran after the Philistines.

Then David went before King Saul, and told his name. And the King's son gave David a robe and a sword and a bow. (1 Samuel 17. 2.)



JONATHAN AND HIS ARMOR-BEARER

XII

A CHARGE OF TWO

It came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the boy that bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that is on the other side."

Now, Saul was stationed under a pomegranate tree in the plain. The people that were with him were about six hundred men. Every man of the six hundred was faint of heart and trembling. They knew that the hour of battle was near, and they had only forks and axes to fight with. There was neither sword nor spear in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul. But the Philistines were armed with swords and spears and shields. There was a great multitude of them, and they were camped on a bluff above the army of Saul. Between the two armies was a sharp, high rock.

But one in Saul's camp was not afraid. It was Jonathan, Saul's son. Jonathan said to the boy that bore his armor: "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison. It may be that the Lord will work for us. It is as easy for the Lord to save by few as by many."

His armor-bearer said to him: "Do all that is in your heart. I am with you."

Then said Jonathan: "We will pass over to these men, and we will show ourselves to them. If they say to us, 'Tarry until we come to you,' then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up to them. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up. And this shall be a sign to us that the Lord will deliver them into our hand."

So Jonathan with his armor-bearer went forth; but he told not his father.

Both of them came near the garrison of the Philistines and showed themselves.

The Philistines cried out, "Behold, the men of Saul come forth out of their hiding-place!"

Then Jonathan and his armor-bearer shouted, "Come down to us, and fight."

But the men of the garrison answered, "Come up to us, and we will show you a thing!"

Then Jonathan was glad, and he said to his armor-bearer, "Come up after me; for the Lord has delivered them into our hand."

Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and his feet, and his armor-bearer after him. They shouted and waved their weapons and rushed upon the Philistines. When the men at the front of the garrison saw the boldness of the charge, they doubted not that the whole army of Saul was climbing up behind Jonathan. They turned and cried out and fled. And behold, the whole multitude was seized with terror, and melted away, beating down one another as they ran.

When Saul saw the men running, he said to the people that were with him, "Number now and see who is gone from us."

When they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armor-bearer were not there. Thus the people knew that the Lord with the help of two boys had saved them that day! (1 Samuel 13. 9.)

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh
my help.

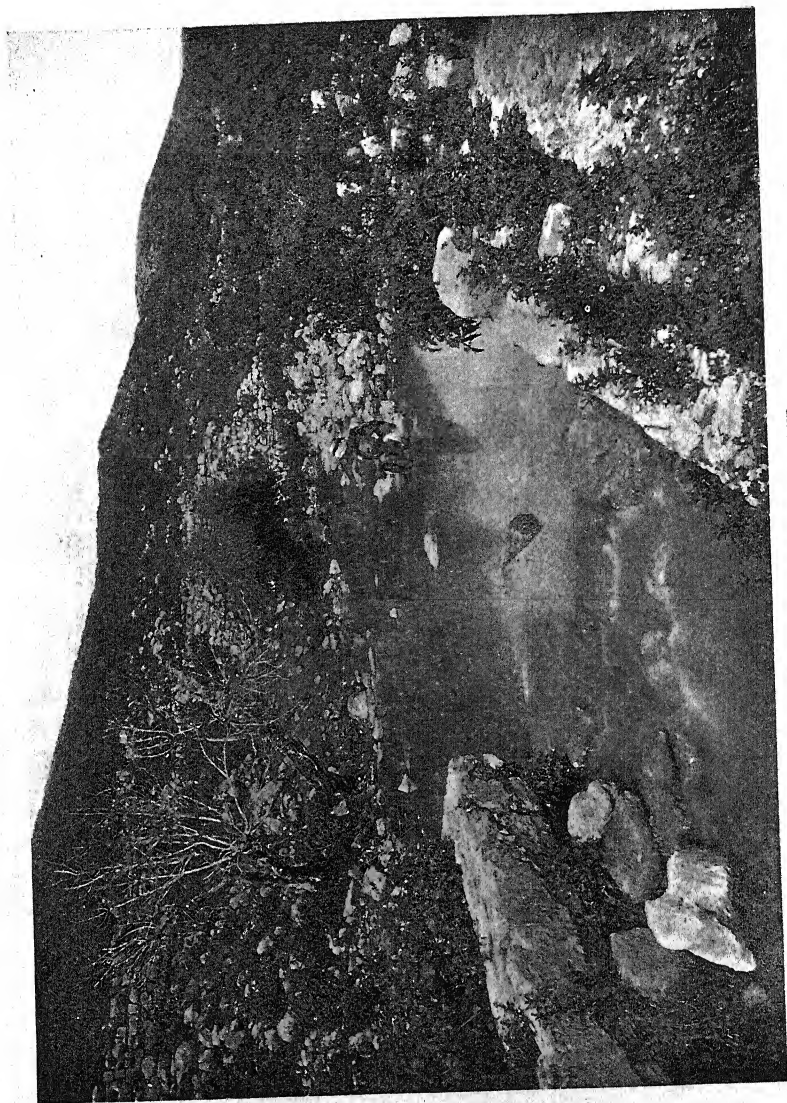
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved.

He that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

—*Psalms* 121.



THE BROOK CHERITH

XIII

THE BARREL OF MEAL

THERE was neither rain nor dew for many years, and all the land became parched and dry. The fruit withered upon the trees, and the grain would not grow in the fields.

Now, there was in the land an old man called Elijah, whom the Lord loved, for he went about doing good.

Elijah went and dwelt by the brook Cherith; and he drank of the brook. But it came to pass after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

The word of the Lord came to Elijah saying, "Arise, go to the city, and dwell there. Behold, a widow woman will care for thee."

So Elijah rose and went to the city. When he came to the gate of the city, the widow woman was there gathering sticks. He called to her, and said, "Fetch me, I pray you, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink."

As she was going to fetch it, he called to her and said, "Bring me, I pray you, a morsel of bread in your hand."

She said: "I have not a cake, but only a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse. I am gathering two sticks, that I may make a fire and bake a cake for me and my son. When the cake is eaten, we shall die of hunger, for we have nothing more."

Then Elijah said to her: "Fear not. Go and do as you have said. But make me a little cake first and bring it to me, and after make for you and your son. For thus says the Lord God, 'The barrel of meal shall not waste,

neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that rain falls upon the earth.' ”

The woman went and did as Elijah had said. She took the handful of meal in the barrel and the oil from the cruse, and made a little cake and brought it to Elijah. She said, “Take and eat; it is all that I have.” Elijah ate, for he was very hungry.

Then the woman went back again, and behold, there was still meal in the barrel and oil in the cruse, and she made two cakes more, one for her little son and one for herself, and they too ate and were filled.

For many weeks Elijah lived with the widow woman and her little son, and slept in the loft above their house. Every day he ate with them the cakes of meal. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, until the rain fell upon the earth again. (1 Kings 17. 1.)

Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat and we can eat,
And sae the Lord be thankit.

—*Robert Burns.*



Von Schnoor

THE PROPHET AND THE BOY

XIV

THE MAN OF GOD

ELIJAH dwelt with the widow woman and her little son. He slept in the loft at the top of the house. The little boy went often to the loft to see Elijah, for Elijah knew many stories. He knew the story of the ark of bulrushes which held the baby Moses and floated in the flags by the river's brink. He knew the story of the silver cup which was found in the sack that Benjamin carried. He knew about the boy who served in the temple and heard one night the voice of the Lord calling, "Samuel, Samuel." All these stories the little boy loved to hear.

The boy and his mother called Elijah the "man of God," because they saw how good he was. When Elijah went out to walk, the little boy stood at the door and watched until the "man of God" returned once more. But one day when Elijah came, the little boy was not at the door. Elijah entered the house and found the mother weeping. She held in her arms her little son, who was very ill. She said to Elijah: "Why am I punished, O man of God? Have I done wrong, that my son must die?"

He said to her, "Give me your son." He took the little boy in his arms, and carried him up into the loft where he dwelt, and laid him upon his own bed.

He cried to the Lord, and said, "O Lord, my God, I pray thee, let this child be well again."

The Lord heard the voice of Elijah, and the child sat up, and knew his friend. Then Elijah took the child in his arms again, and brought him down out of the loft

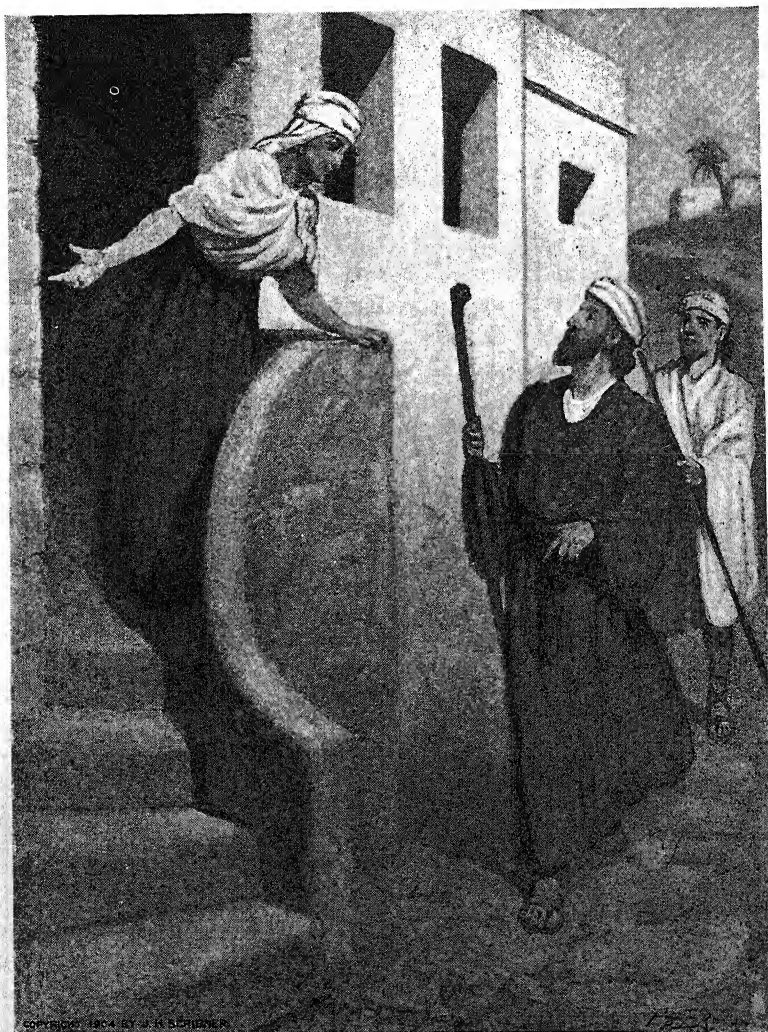
into the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, "See, your son lives."

The woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that you are indeed a man of God." (1 Kings 17. 17.)

Sleep, my child, and peace attend thee
All through the night.
Guardian angels God will send thee
All through the night.
Soft the drowsy hours are creeping,
Hill and vale in slumber steeping,
I my loving watch am keeping
All through the night.

Mother dear is close beside thee
All through the night,
Watching that no harm betide thee
All through the night.
Through the open window streaming,
Moonlight on the floor is gleaming,
While my baby lies a-dreaming,
All through the night.

—*Old Song.*



A ROOM FOR A FRIEND

XV

A ROOM FOR A FRIEND

THERE was a woman who had a husband, and a great house with many rooms. Outside the house were broad fields of grain. But the woman was not happy. She wished every day for a little son.

Now, it fell on a day that a good man, Elisha, passed by the great house. The woman saw that he looked tired and hungry, and she said to him, "Turn in and eat."

And so it was that as often as he passed by, Elisha turned in there to eat bread. As he ate he talked to the woman and to her husband about the work he was doing for the people.

So the woman said one day to her husband, "Behold, I see that this is a holy man of God, which passes by us often. Let us make ready a room for him. Let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool and a candlestick. It shall be when he comes to us, that he shall turn in there to rest."

So the woman and her husband made ready a room for Elisha. They set for him there a bed and a table, a stool and a candlestick, and they waited for him to come.

It fell on a day that he came there, and he turned into the room and lay there to rest.

When he was ready to go, he called the woman. She came and stood before him. He said to her: "Behold, you have been careful for me with all this care. What is to be done for you? Shall I speak for you to the king or to the captain of the host?"

But the woman shook her head and said: "I dwell among my own people. I have all that I need."

Elisha said, "What, then, is to be done for you?"

She answered, "I have no child, but for that there is no help."

Then Elisha said to her, "At this season in the next year, you shall hold in your arms a son."

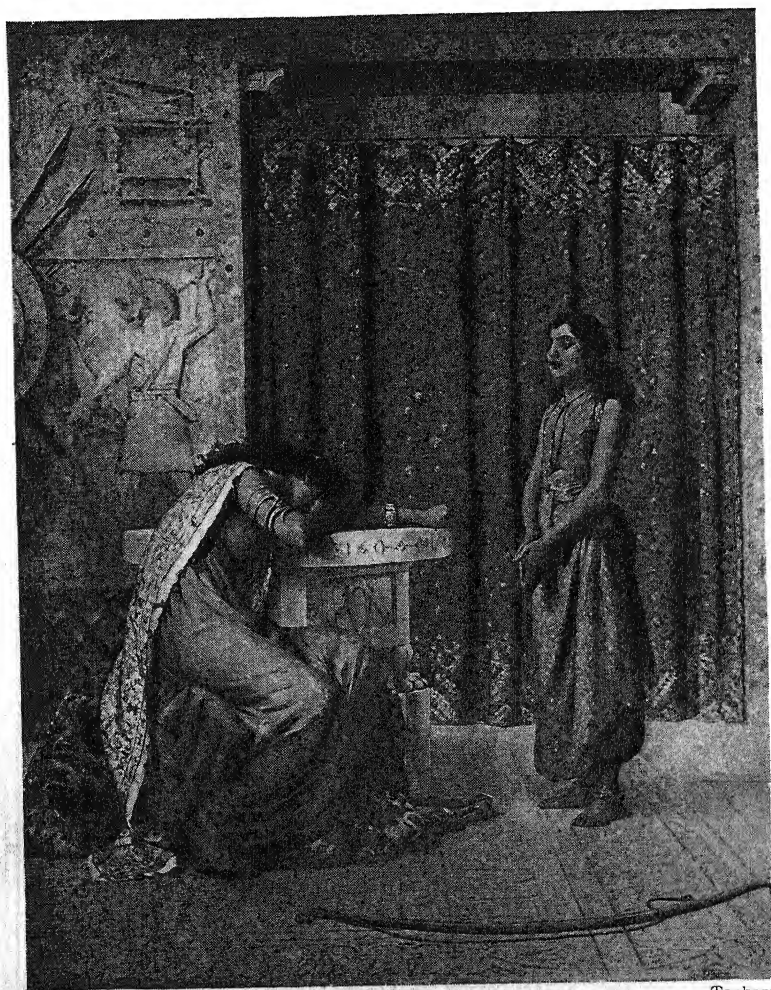
She could not believe his words, and she said to him, "Nay, O man of God, do not lie to me."

Elisha left, but he remembered to pray that God would send a son to the good woman.

At the season that Elisha had said, the woman held in her arms a little son. The child grew. He went sometimes with his father to the broad fields to see the reapers; and sometimes he stayed near his mother and played in the great house. (2 Kings 4. 8.)

He prayeth best who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us
He made and loveth all.

—*Samuel Taylor Coleridge.*



Topham

THE CAPTIVE MAID

XVI

THE CAPTIVE MAID

THE Syrians had gone out to fight with the men of Israel and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid. She went with Naaman, the captain of the host, to his house; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

Now, Naaman was a great man with the king of Syria, because by him had Syria won the victory. He was also a mighty man in valor, but he was a leper.

The little maid said often to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the man of God that is in Israel! Then he would recover of his leprosy."

Naaman's wife told the saying to her husband and to others of the host. One went to the king, and said, "There waits on Naaman's wife a little maid of the land of Israel. She says often, 'I would that my lord were in Israel! Then he would recover of his leprosy!'"

The king of Syria said to Naaman, "Go to, go, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So Naaman left. He went with a chariot and with horses. He took silver and gold, and beautiful raiment. He took also the letter of the Syrian king.

He brought the letter to the king of Israel. The king opened it and read, "Now, when this letter is come to you, behold, I have sent Naaman, my servant, to you, that he may recover of his leprosy."

It came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said: "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this king of Syria sends a

man to me to recover of his leprosy? I pray you, see how he seeks a quarrel against me."

When Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, he sent to the king, saying: "Why have you rent your clothes? Let the man now come to me."

So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the River Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall come again, and you will be clean."

Naaman was surprised, that Elisha asked him only to wash in the river. But he went down, and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan. His flesh came again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

He returned to the man of God, and stood before him, and said, "I pray you, take a gift from me."

But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, who has made you clean, I will receive none." Naaman urged, but Elisha refused the gift.

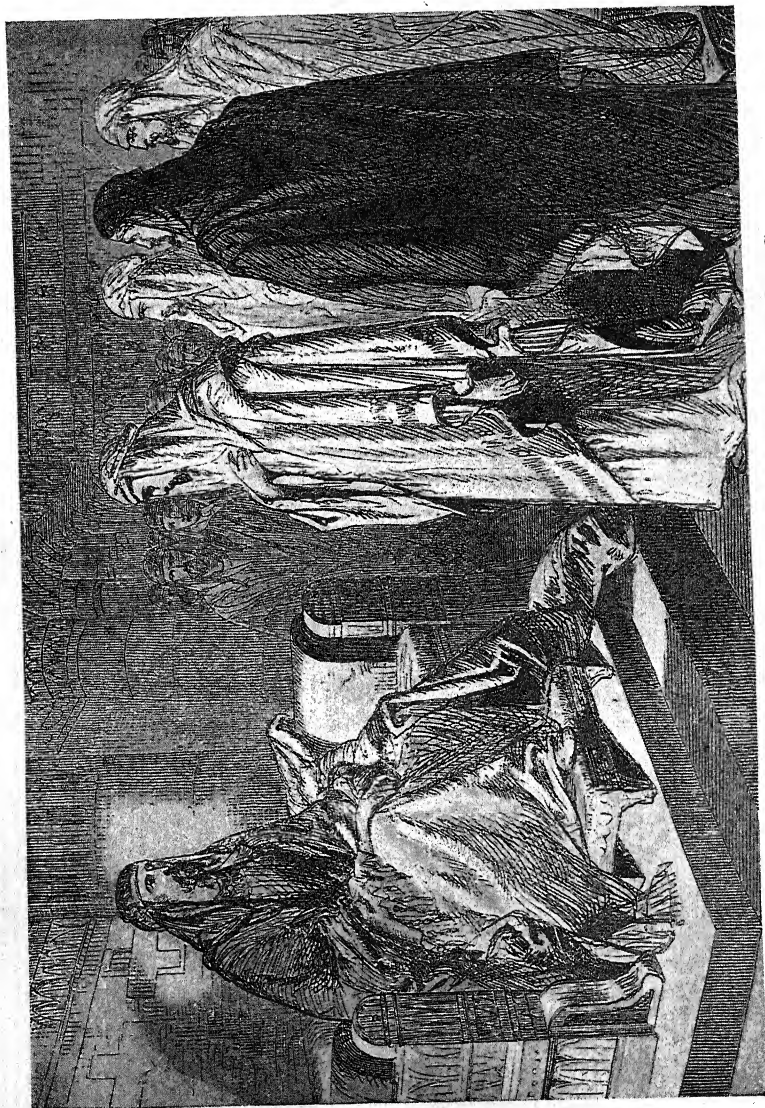
Then Naaman went back to Syria with his chariot and his horses. He took back with him the silver and the gold and the beautiful raiment. When the king of Syria saw him, he was glad, and all his host. Glad too was the little maid who waited on Naaman's wife. (2 Kings 5. 1.)

God make my life a little light
Within the world to glow—
A tiny flame that burneth bright
Wherever I may go.

God make my life a little flower,
That bringeth joy to all,
Content to bloom in native bower,
Although its place be small.

God make my life a little song,
That comforteth the sad,
That helpeth others to be strong,
And makes the singer glad.

—*M. Betham Edwards.*



DANIEL AND HIS COMPANIONS BEFORE THE KING

XVII

THE KING'S TABLE

THE King of Babylon besieged Jerusalem and took it. He carried away with him to Babylon much treasure.

He said to the prince of his serving men, "Bring also to Babylon some of the children of Jerusalem. Bring boys without blemish, good looking and skillful, such as can learn to speak the language and read the books of Babylon."

When the children came to Babylon, the king said to the prince of the serving men: "Give the boys each day from my table meat and wine. Feed them so for three years; and at the end they may stand before me."

Now, among the children of Jerusalem were four boys who were friends, and one was called Daniel. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not eat the meat from the King's table nor drink of the wine which the king drank. He wished to eat only the pulse that grew in the garden. Therefore he said to the prince: "Ask me not to eat the king's meat and to drink the king's wine. Give me water to drink, and let me eat pulse such as I ate in Jerusalem."

The prince loved Daniel and wished to favor him, but he said: "I fear my lord, the king, who has chosen your meat and your drink. If he sees your face worse looking than the faces of the other boys, then you shall make me lose my head to the king."

Then said Daniel to the prince: "Prove us, I pray you, for ten days. Give me and my three friends pulse to eat, and water to drink. Then let our faces be looked

upon before you, and the faces of the boys who eat the king's meat. As you see, so deal with us."

The prince agreed, and proved them for ten days. All the others were given the king's meat and the king's wine, but Daniel and his friends ate only pulse and drank water.

At the end of ten days the boys went before the prince. The faces of the four boys were fairer and fatter than the faces of all who ate the king's meat. Then the prince said to Daniel, "No more will I ask you to eat the meat and drink the wine; but you shall have pulse and water."

So the four boys lived in Babylon. They worked well, and God gave them knowledge and skill.

At the end of the three years, the boys went before the king. The king talked with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel and his three friends. They were strong and tall and very skillful. When the king asked them questions, he found them ten times better than all the wise men that were in his realm. (Daniel 1. 1.)

God is great and God is good;
Him we thank for daily food.
By His bounty we are fed;
By his love we all are led.

—*Unknown.*



Riviere

DANIEL'S ANSWER TO THE KING

XVIII

THE DEN OF LIONS

KING DARIUS loved Daniel better than all the princes of Babylon, and he made him the chief ruler over the whole kingdom. But Daniel did not forget the city of Jerusalem, nor the temple where he and his father and mother used often to go for prayer. He kept the windows of his room open always toward Jerusalem, and he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, to pray and to give thanks to God.

Now, some of the princes and rulers came before the king, and said: "King Darius, live forever. We think that no one should ask a favor of any God or man, save of you, O king. Therefore, O king, make a decree and sign the writing that it be not changed: Whoever shall ask a favor of any God or man, save of the king, shall be cast into the den of lions."

To please the princes and the rulers, the king put the decree into writing, and signed the writing, so that it could not be changed. The writing said, "Whoever shall ask a favor of any God or man, save of King Darius, shall be cast into the den of lions."

Now, when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house. The windows were open in his room toward Jerusalem; and he kneeled upon his knees three times a day and prayed, and gave thanks to God, as he did before.

Then the princes and the rulers went before the king again, and they said, "Have you not signed a decree, O king, that whoever shall ask a favor of any God or man, save of the king, shall be cast into the den of lions?"

The king answered, "The thing is true, nor can the law be changed."

Then answered they: "That Daniel, who is of Jerusalem, obeys you not, O king, nor the decree which you have signed. He makes his prayer to God three times a day."

When the king heard these words, he was displeased with himself; and he set his heart on Daniel to save him. He labored till the going down of the sun to save him. But the princes said, "O king, no decree which the king has signed can be changed."

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions.

The king said to Daniel, "Your God whom you serve, he will save you."

A stone was brought and laid upon the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it.

Then the king went to his palace, but he could not eat, nor could he listen to music, and his sleep went from him.

The king rose early in the morning, and went in haste to the den of lions. When he came to the den he cried out in a loud voice to Daniel, and said:

"O Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God, whom you serve always, able to save you from the lions?"

Then said Daniel to the king: "O king, live forever. My God has sent his angel, and has shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me; because before him no wrong was found in me, and also, before you, O king, have I done no harm."

Then was the king very glad, and commanded that Daniel should be taken up out of the den. No hurt was found upon him because he believed in God.

Then Darius wrote to all his people, that dwelt in the earth:

"I make a decree that in every part of my kingdom, men pray always to the living God, the God of Daniel."
(Daniel 6. 1.)



Correggio

THE HOLY NIGHT

XIX

THE SONG OF THE ANGELS

AN angel was sent from God to a maiden of Galilee; and the maiden's name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Hail, Mary, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women."

When Mary saw the angel, she was troubled, for she knew not what was meant.

The angel said to her: "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. Behold, thou shalt have a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest."

Then was Mary glad, and she said to the angel: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to thy word."

The angel left her. Mary made ready for the baby that was coming. As she worked she sang, "My soul does praise the Lord; and my spirit rejoices in God."

After a time, the king sent out word that all the people must go to Bethlehem to be taxed. Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem with Mary his wife.

When they came to Bethlehem, it was late, and many people were there before them. There was no room for them in the inn, nor in any house.

But the innkeeper had pity for them. He said to his servants, "Let them go into the stable, and make a bed for them there, upon the hay."

So Joseph and Mary went into the stable, where the cattle and the donkeys were, and they slept upon the hay.

That very night there came to Mary the baby Jesus;

and the glory of the Lord shone around them. Mary wrapped the babe in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. And the cattle and the donkeys stood about, and wondered.

There were in the same country shepherds in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

The angel said to them, "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For to you is born this day in the city of Bethlehem, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. This shall be a sign to you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

It came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem, and see this thing, which the Lord has made known to us."

They came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. When they had seen it, the shepherds returned to their flocks. They praised God for all the things that they had heard and seen. (Luke 1. 26.)

Away in a manger,
No crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head.

The stars in the heavens
Looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus,
Asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing;
The baby awakes;
But little Lord Jesus,
No crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus.
Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle
Till morning is nigh.

—*Martin Luther.*



Portaels

MAGI ON THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM

XX

THE STAR IN THE EAST

THERE lived in the Far East three Wise Men, who were skillful in all learning, and in the study of the stars. Now, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa, the three Wise Men saw in the east a new star more bright than any other. They said: "There shines in the heavens a new star. Behold, a child is born in Judæa, who shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest. Let us go to worship him."

They took treasures, gold and frankincense and myrrh, as gifts for the Christ-child, and they went across the desert. They came into Judæa, and said to the people, "Where is he that is born Son of the Highest? For we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him."

But the people could not answer.

Then the Wise Men went to the king, and said to him, "Where is he that is born a prince? We have seen his star in the east, and have brought him gifts."

The king gathered together all the priests, and the rulers of the people and questioned them, but none knew where the babe was to be found.

The Wise Men went on to search for the child; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

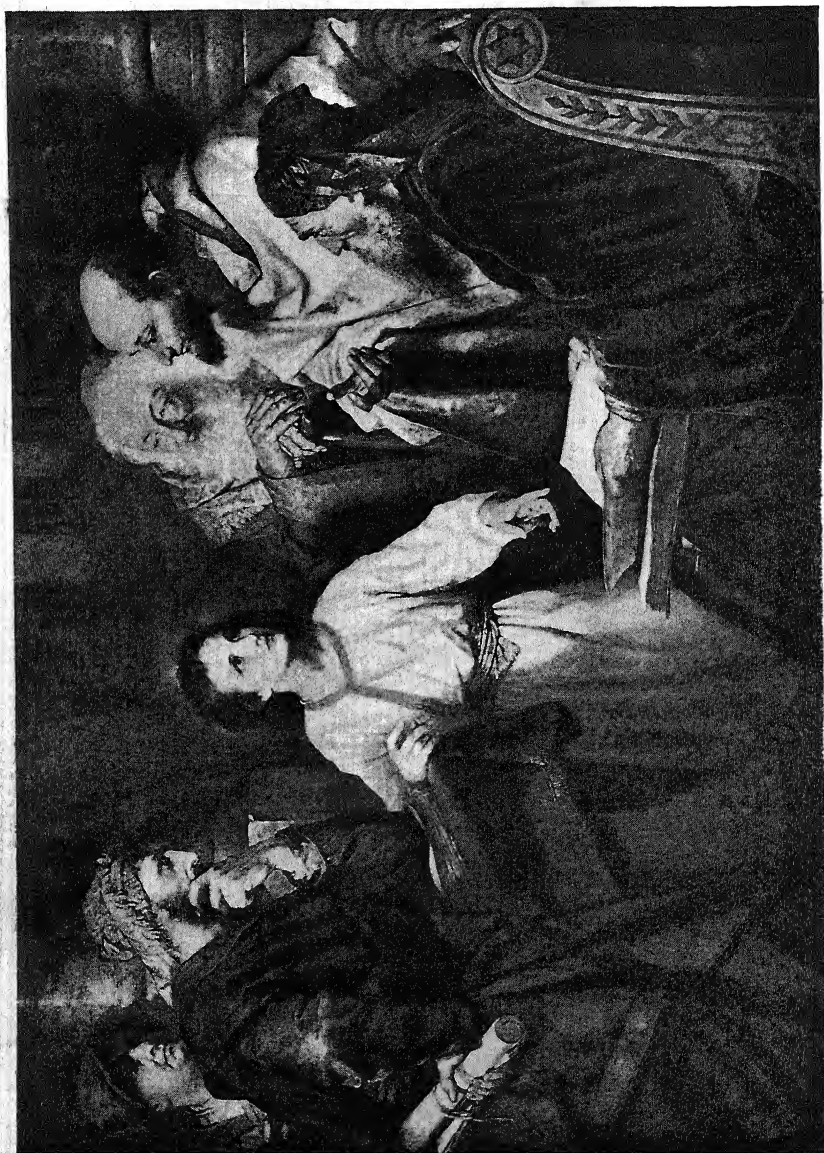
When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him. When they had opened their treasures,

they presented to him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Then they rose, and went across the desert again to their own country in the Far East. (Matthew 2. 1.)

Sleep, baby, sleep.
Their watch the shepherds keep;
The wise men see the light afar
Shed by that wondrous gleaming star.
Sleep, baby, sleep.

—*Jessie Winter.*



Hofmann

CHRIST AND THE DOCTORS

THE BOY IN THE TEMPLE

WHEN Jesus was old enough, he learned to say the verse: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

He heard the story of the boy Samuel who lived in the temple at Jerusalem and served the Lord. He heard also the story of Daniel who was cast into the den of lions because he prayed every day with his windows open toward Jerusalem. Jesus thought often about the great temple of God at Jerusalem, and wished to go there.

His father and mother went to Jerusalem every year to the feast. But the journey was long, and little children could not go. At last when he was twelve years old Jesus went with his father and mother to Jerusalem. They went with a great company of kinsfolk and friends.

They walked a long way by the River Jordan, and at night they pitched their tents on the bank of the river and slept. They climbed many rugged hills, and by and by they came to the city of Jerusalem. They went into the great temple and offered gifts, lambs and doves.

When the time had come the company left Jerusalem, but Jesus tarried behind. Joseph and his mother did not know it. They supposed that he was in the company, and went a day's journey.

Then they sought for him among their kinsfolk and friends. When they did not find him, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

It came to pass that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the ministers, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

When they saw him, they were amazed, and his mother said to him: "Son, why have you so dealt with us? Behold, your father and I have sought you sorrowing."

He said to them: "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I would be here?"

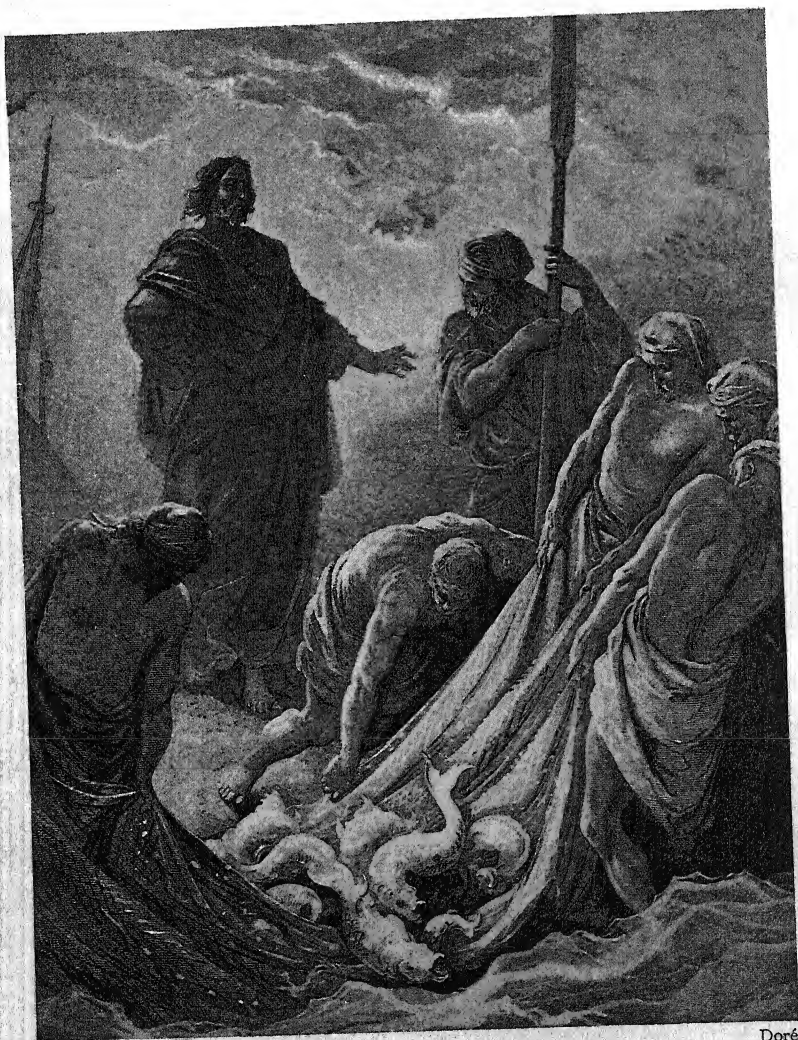
Then he went down with them, and came to his home, and obeyed his father and his mother. And Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2. 40.)

My Father, hear my prayer
Before I go to rest;
It is thy little child
That cometh to be blest.

Lord, help me every day
To love thee more and more,
And try to do thy will
Much better than before.

Now look upon me, Lord,
Ere I lie down to rest;
It is thy little child
That cometh to be blest.

C. W. W.



MIRACULOUS DRAUGHT OF FISHES

Doré

XXII

THE NETS THAT BROKE

It came to pass that Jesus stood one day by the lake and spoke to the people. The people pressed so close that he could not be heard.

He looked and saw two ships standing by the lake. The fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. He entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and said to him, "I pray you thrust out a little from the land, that I may speak to the people."

The fishermen left their nets unwashed, and did as Jesus said.

They thrust out a little from the land, and Jesus sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

When he had left speaking, he said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for some fishes."

Simon said to him, "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing. Nevertheless at your word, we will let down the nets."

When they had done this they drew up a great multitude of fishes; and their net broke.

They called to their partners, which were in the other ship, and said, "Come, for our net is broken."

They came, and filled both ships, so that they began to sink.

When Simon saw it, he was filled with fear, and fell down at Jesus' knees saying, "Depart from us, O Lord!"

For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the fishes which they had taken.

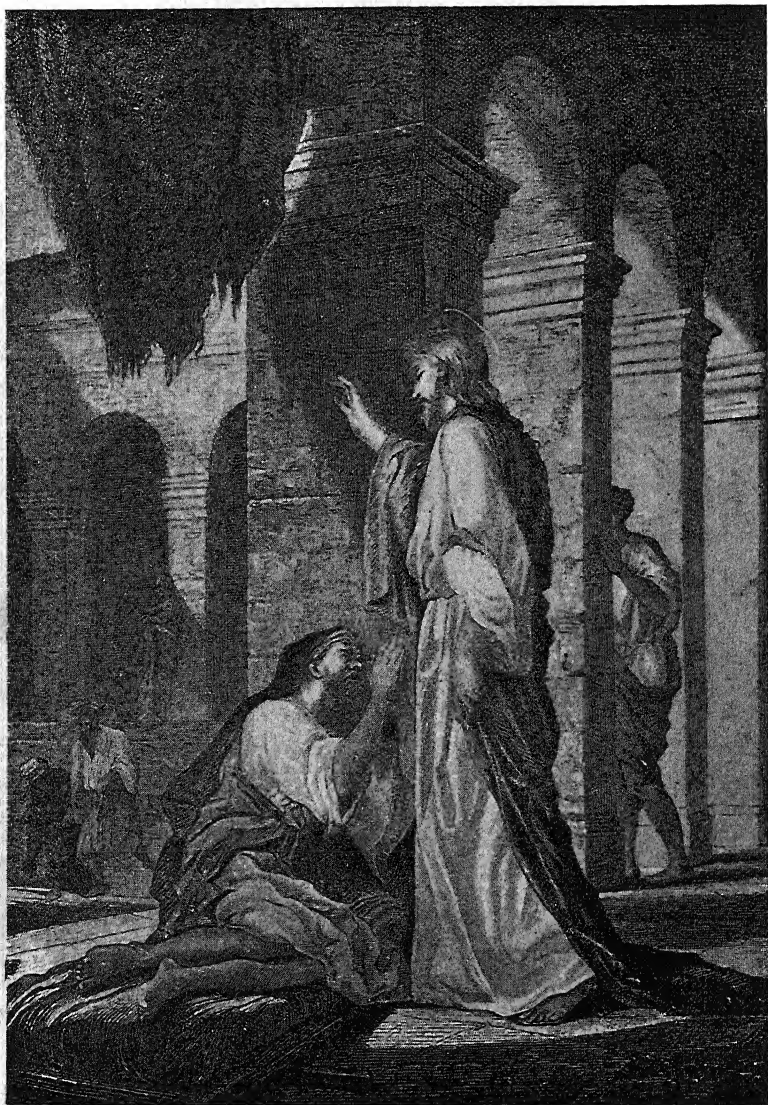
But Jesus said to Simon: "Fear not. Which is the

greater thing—that many people come to hear my words, or that many fish are caught in a net? Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

When they had brought the ships to land they left all, and went with Jesus. They preached to the people. They healed the sick, and helped those that were in trouble. Wherever they went crowds of people followed them. Thus did Jesus make them fishers of men. (Luke 5. 1.)

For the teaching of thy word
We sincerely thank thee, Lord.
Help us in our daily living
So to use what thou art giving
That our friends who hear and see
Draw the closer unto thee.

—*Gerrit Verkuyl.*



HEALING OF THE IMPOTENT MAN

Bida

XXIII

THE POOL OF THE ANGEL

THERE was a feast at Jerusalem, and Jesus went up to be present.

Now, there was at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which had five porches. In these porches lay a great multitude of helpless folk, of blind, lame, sick, waiting for the moving of the water.

It was a strange pool. Sometimes the water was smooth and clear. Again the water bubbled up and was stirred. People said that an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and troubled the water. Whoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatever disease he had.

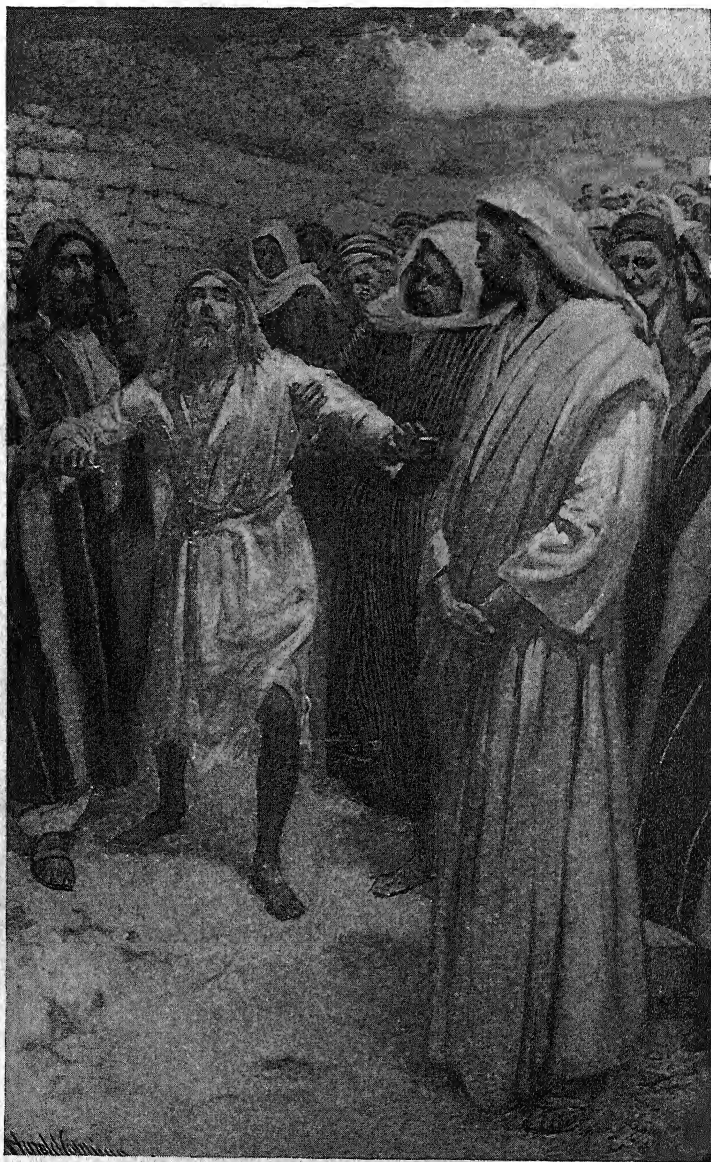
Now, a certain man was there who had been ill thirty and eight years. He came each day to the pool. When the water was troubled, he rose to step into the pool. But while he was coming, always another stepped down before him into the water; for many had friends who came with them to the pool to help them.

When Jesus saw him lie and knew that he had been now a long time so, he was filled with pity, and said to him, "Will you be made whole?"

The man answered him, and said: "Sir, I have no one, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool. But while I am coming, another steps down before me."

Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed, and walk."

At once the man was made whole, and took up his bed and walked. And he told all the people that it was Jesus who had made him whole. (John 5. 1.)



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BLIND BARTIMÆUS

XXIV

THE BLIND MAN BY THE WAYSIDE

JESUS went from one town to another speaking to the people; and always a great crowd came out to hear him. Many followed him to the next town, to hear more of his sayings.

As he went out of Jericho with his friends and a great number of people, blind Bartimæus sat by the wayside begging.

When the blind man heard the voices and the sound of many feet approaching, he asked of those who stood near him, "Who is coming? What do I hear?"

They answered him and said, "Jesus is passing by."

When he heard that it was Jesus, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me."

Those about him spoke roughly to him, and said: "Hold your peace. It is not fit that you should stop him here."

But the blind man cried the more a great deal, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me."

Jesus stood still, and said, "Who is it that calls me?"

His friends answered, "It is a blind man, who sits by the wayside begging."

Then said Jesus, "Call him to me."

They called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good comfort, rise; he calls you."

The blind man rose, and cast away his cloak, that he might move the quicker, and came to Jesus.

Jesus said to him, "What is your wish that I should do to you?"

The blind man said to him, "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

Jesus said to him, "Go your way; you are made whole."

At once, he received his sight, and he saw Jesus and the great number of people. But he did not leave. He followed Jesus along the way, to hear his words. (Mark 10. 46.)

The year's at the spring;
The day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in his heaven—
All's right with the world.

—*Robert Browning.*



"PEACE, BE STILL"

Doré

THE STORM ON THE WATER

JESUS began again to teach by the seaside. There was gathered about him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship and thrust out from shore. He sat in the boat; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. He spoke all day, and taught them many things by stories.

When the evening was come he said to those who were with him in the boat, "Let us pass over to the other side."

When they had sent away the multitude they took him in the ship and started to cross the sea.

There arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat against the ship, so that the men could scarcely row.

Jesus was in the hinder part of the boat, asleep on a pillow. His friends said: "Do not waken him. He is weary with much speaking. It is good that he does not know of the storm."

But the wind grew more wild, and the waves dashed higher, until the boat was filled with water.

Then were the men afraid, and they let the oars go, and cried aloud.

They awoke Jesus and said to him: "Master, we perish. Can you not help us?"

Jesus arose, and saw the angry waves and the frightened men. He spoke and said, "Peace, be still."

When they heard his voice, they were no longer afraid, and ceased to cry out. Soon the wind hushed, and there was a great calm.

He said to them: "Why are you so fearful? Know you not that your heavenly Father cares for you?"

And they came safely across, and landed on the other side of the sea. (Mark 4. 37.)

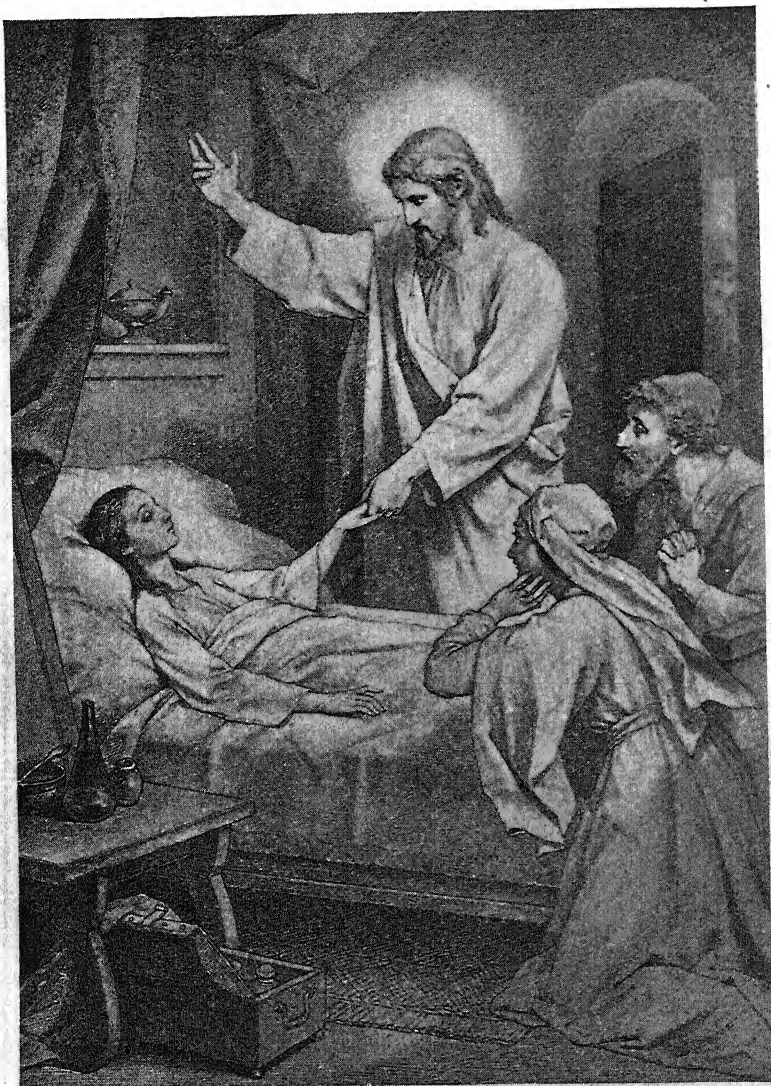
Now the day is over,
Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening
Steal across the sky.

Jesu, give the weary
Calm and sweet repose;
With thy tend'rest blessing
May mine eyelids close.

Grant to little children
Visions bright of thee;
Guard the sailors tossing
On the deep blue sea.

Through the long night watches
May thine angels spread
Their white wings above me,
Watching round my bed.

—*S. Baring-Gould*



DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS

Hofmann

XXVI

THE LITTLE DAUGHTER

THERE came a man named Jairus. He fell down at Jesus' feet, and begged him to come quickly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. I pray you, come at once and lay your hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live."

Jesus answered, "I will come." And he went with him.

But many people followed Jesus, and thronged about him, so that he could not go quickly. Some were sick, and begged to be healed; some asked questions; some wished only to see Jesus and to touch him.

While Jesus made his way through the throng, there came one from the house of Jairus, who said: "It is too late. Your daughter can not now be healed. Do not trouble the Master."

When Jesus heard these words, he said to Jairus, "Be not afraid; only believe, and she shall be made whole."

They came to the house of Jairus, and saw there a tumult. The friends and neighbors had come, and all wept and wailed greatly.

When Jesus was come in, he said to them: "Why make you this ado, and weep? The damsel only sleeps."

But they laughed at him, for they were sure that she was dead.

Then Jesus put them all out and took the father and the mother of the little girl, and entered the room where the child was lying.

He took her by the hand, and said to her, "Damsel, I say to you, arise."

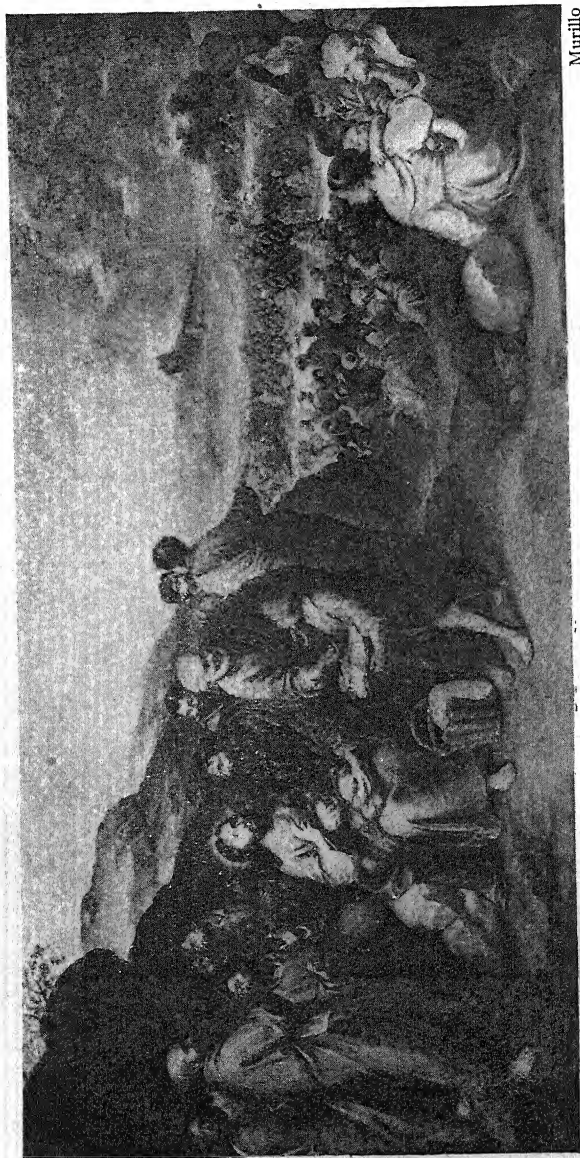
At once, the little girl arose, and walked, and was well again. All were astonished.

Then Jesus said, "Give her to eat." So the little girl ate with her father and mother. The neighbors and friends ate with them too, and all were glad. (Mark 5. 22; Luke 8. 41.)

I think when I read that sweet story of old,
When Jesus was here among men,
How he called little children like lambs to his fold,
I should like to have been with him then.

I wish that his hand had been placed on my head,
That his arm had been thrown around me,
That I might have seen his kind look when he said,
"Let the little ones come unto me."

—*Jemima Thompson Luke.*



Murillo

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

XXVII

FIVE BARLEY LOAVES

JESUS spoke to the people every day, and healed a great number that were sick. So many were coming and going all the while that Jesus and his friends had no chance to rest, and often they could not find time so much as to eat.

One day Jesus said to his friends, "Come with me into a desert place, and rest a while."

They took a ship secretly, and crossed the sea of Galilee, to come to a mountain.

But the people saw them going, and ran afoot out of all the towns, and outwent them. When Jesus came to the mountain, he found a great multitude there before him, waiting until he should come.

When he saw the people, he was moved with pity for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. He healed those that were sick, and then he began to teach them many things. All day he spoke to them.

When it was evening his friends came to him saying: "This is a desert place, and the time is now past. Send the multitude away that they may go into the villages and buy themselves bread, for they have nothing to eat."

But Jesus said: "They need not go; give them to eat here."

His friends said: "How shall we buy food? Two hundred pennyworth is not enough for them, that everyone of them may take a little."

Jesus said to them: "How much food is here? Go and see."

They came back after a while, and said: "There is a

lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fishes. But what are they among so many?"

Jesus said, "Let the lad come to me."

The lad brought the loaves and the fishes and gave them to Jesus.

Then Jesus said, "Ask the people to sit down in companies upon the green grass."

So the people sat down in companies, by hundreds, and by fifties. There were in all about five thousand.

Jesus broke the five loaves and the two fishes, and looked up to heaven, and asked God to bless them. Then he gave the food to his friends, and said, "Pass to all the people. Let every man take as much as he needs of the bread, and also of the fishes."

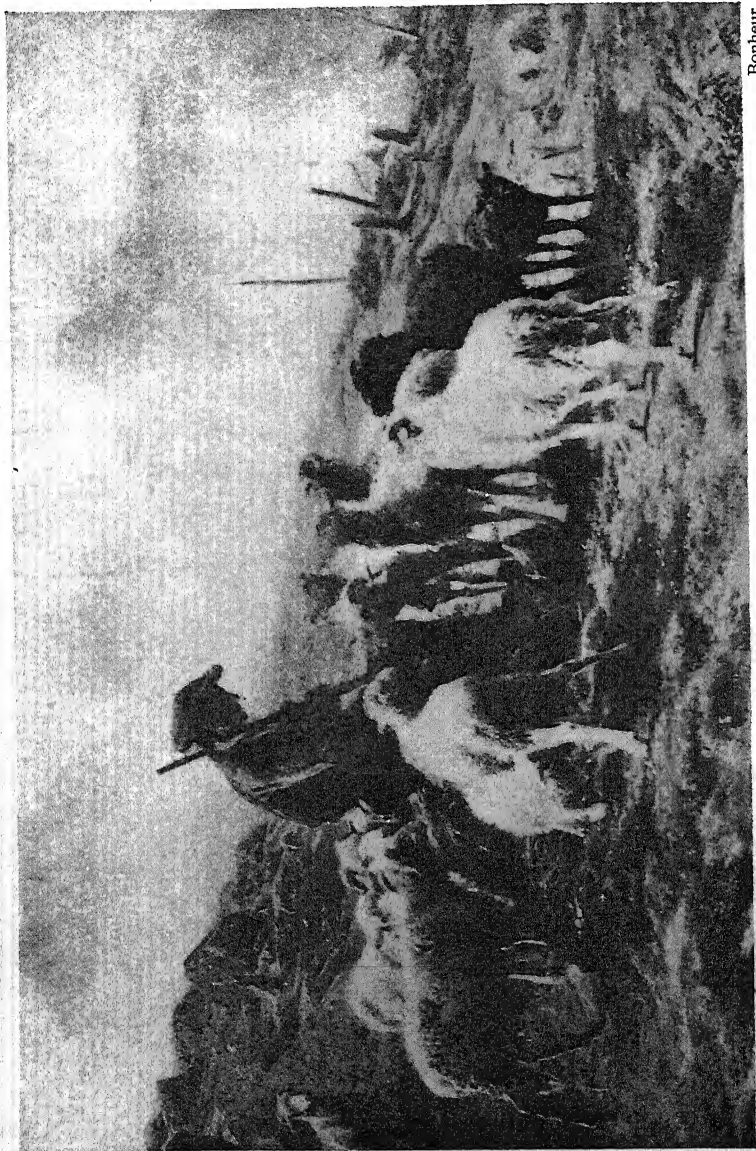
His friends passed to the people, and said to each one, "Take and eat, as much as you wish."

They all took and ate, nor were the baskets empty until every man was filled.

Then did the people follow Jesus the more, because of his care for them. (John 6. 5; Matthew 14. 13; Mark 6. 31.)

O, grant thy blessing, God, to rest
Upon this meal to make it blest;
And help us all to feel how good
Thou art to give us daily food.

—*J. Vinson Stephens.*



Bonheur

SHEPHERD OF THE PYRENEES

XXVIII

THE SHEPHERD AND THE WOLF

JESUS told many stories to the people. Sometimes he went out in a boat into the sea, and spoke to the multitude who were on the land. Sometimes he stood on the side of a mountain, and the multitude sat in the valley below. One day he told them the story of a shepherd and a wolf.

There was once a shepherd who had many sheep. The sheep loved the shepherd, and followed him wherever he went. When he called them, they came to him, for they knew his voice. But the shepherd had so many sheep that he could not watch them all, and he hired a man to help him.

The hireling did not care for the sheep, and they would not follow him. They did not come to him when he called, for his voice was not gentle. When he wished them to go from one field to another, he shouted at them and drove them with sticks.

One day a wolf came into the field where the sheep were grazing. The sheep were frightened and ran, some one way, and some another. The hireling was frightened too, and left the sheep and fled. He ran to a tree and climbed up to keep himself safe. But the young lambs could not run fast, and the wolf caught them.

The shepherd heard the bleating of the lambs, and he came to the field running. When he saw the wolf he ran the more. As he ran he picked up a stone and threw it and killed the wolf.

When the hireling saw the shepherd he climbed down

from the tree and called the sheep, but the sheep did not come. Then the shepherd called. The sheep knew the voice of the shepherd and they came to him gladly.

Then the shepherd said to the hireling: "You are not a good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. But you saw the wolf coming, and left the sheep and fled. The wolf caught the lambs and scattered the sheep. You fled because you do not care for the sheep. The sheep do not come when you call them, for they do not know you. The good shepherd knows his sheep and is known by them."

Then the shepherd let the hireling go. And he led the sheep back to the fold. He went before them, and they followed him. (John 10. 11.)

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee,
Gave thee life and bade thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

—*William Blake.*



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Schonherr

THE SHEEP THAT WAS LOST

JESUS once told his friends this story about a sheep that was lost:

There was once a man who had a hundred sheep. He took them every day to the green pastures where they could eat. He led them by the clear water where they could drink. At night he brought them back to the fold, and he counted them to make sure that all were safe. But on a certain day he lost one of the sheep. When he counted them there were only ninety and nine to enter the fold.

The night was dark and the rain fell, but the shepherd did not think of the dark and the rain. He went out to find his sheep that was lost.

When his neighbors saw him go they called to him and said, "Where do you go?"

He answered, "I go to find my sheep that is lost."

They said to him, "Do not go; for the night is dark, and the rain falls; and ninety and nine are safe in the fold."

But the shepherd went on. As he went, he met his friends coming home from the fields. They said to him, "Shepherd, where do you go?"

He answered, "I go to the pasture to find my sheep that is lost."

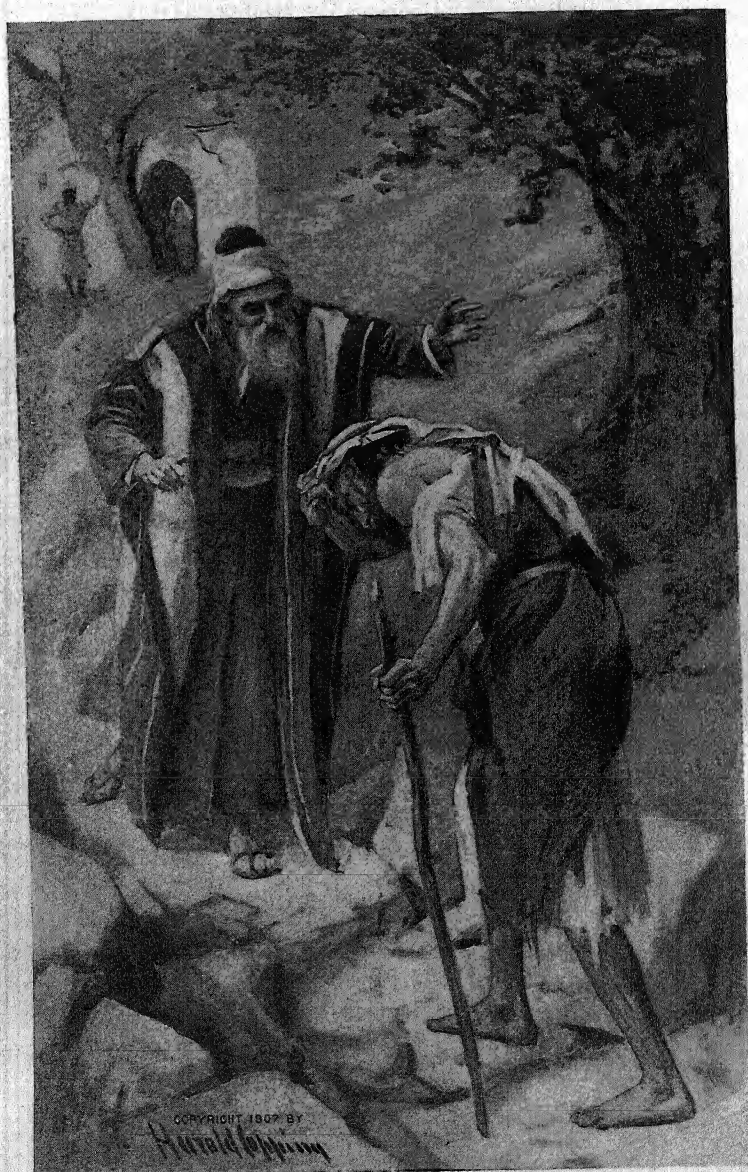
They said: "Do not go; for the night is dark and the wind blows. Return with us, and make merry indoors."

But the shepherd went on. He went to the pasture. He walked by the water. He climbed the rugged hill,

and he found the sheep that was lost. And when he had found it, he laid it on his shoulder, rejoicing. When he came home he called together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost!" (Luke 15. 3.)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

—*Psalm 23.*



RETURN OF THE PRODICAL

XXX

THE SON THAT LEFT HOME

JESUS once told a story of a father, and a son who left home:

A certain man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the portion of your goods that falls to me."

The father divided all that he had, and gave half to each son.

Not many days after the younger son gathered together all that was his and took a journey into a far country. There he wasted his money with gay living. He ate and drank and wore fine clothing, and made merry with friends.

When he had spent all he began to be in want. He went and hired himself to a citizen of that country. The citizen sent him into the fields to feed swine.

So hungry was the boy that he would gladly have eaten the husks that the swine ate. But no man gave to him.

Then he came to himself and said: "How many hired servants of my father have bread enough and to spare, while I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father. I will say to him, 'Father, I have done wrong, and am no more worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants.'"

He arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off his father saw him, and had pity, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

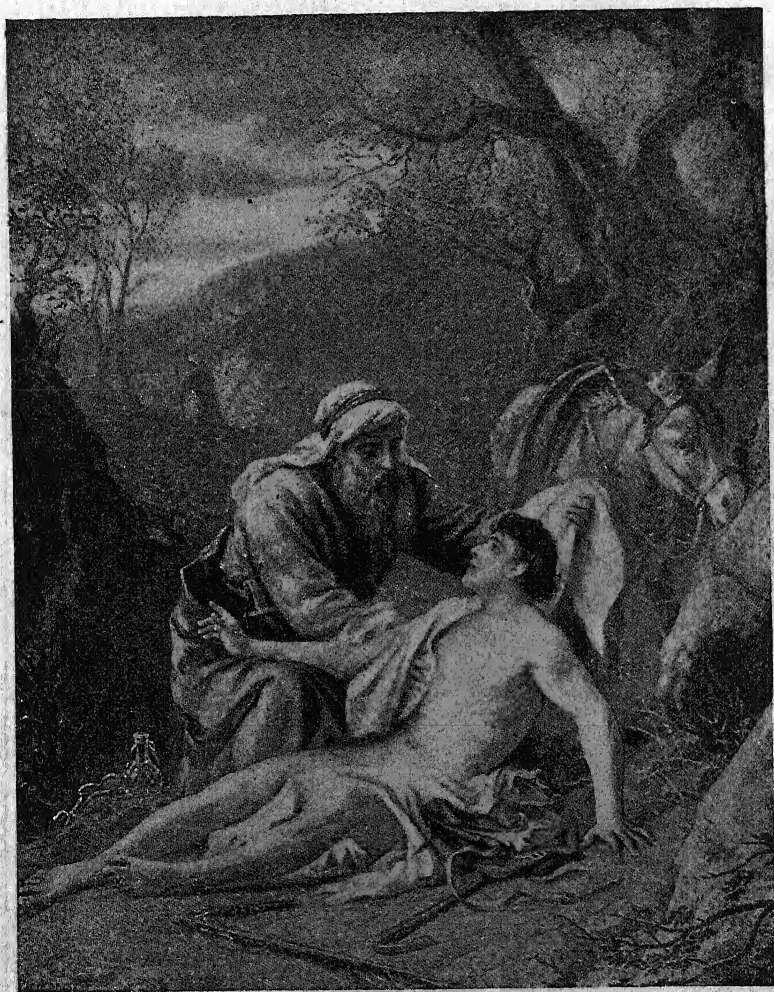
The son said to him, "Father, I have done wrong, and am no more worthy to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants: "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand, and put shoes on his feet. Bring also the fatted calf, and kill it. Let us eat, and be merry. For this my son was dead, and is alive again. He was lost, and is found."

And they called in the neighbors and friends and were merry. (Luke 15. 11.)

For this new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for home and friends,
For everything his goodness sends,
We thank the heavenly Father.

—*Unknown*



THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Ploekhorst

THE GOOD NEIGHBOR

JESUS said often to the people, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

A certain man asked him, "Who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus told the story of a good neighbor.

A man walked one day along a lonely road. There were high rocks on either side, and the road wound in and out among the rocks.

As the man walked, thieves came from behind a great rock. They caught him and threw him down. They took his money and stripped him of his clothing. They beat him so that he could not walk. Then they fled, leaving him to lie upon the rocky road.

By chance a priest came that way. When he saw the wounded man, he said to himself: "Thieves have been here. It is well that I should not stop to look."

He passed by on the other side, and made as if he did not see the wounded man upon the road.

Likewise a lawyer came by. When he was at the place, he stopped and looked at the man lying upon the road, and saw his wounds. Then he said to himself: "Thieves have done this. It is best that I should hurry on."

He crossed the road, and passed by on the other side, in great haste.

But there came a stranger from another country, riding on a donkey. When he came where the wounded man was, he had pity for him, and said: "Thieves have stripped him of his clothing and beaten him, and left him to lie here. It is good that I came this way."

He went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil. He set him on his own donkey, and brought him to an inn. When he had hired a room he put the stranger on the bed, and took care of him during the night.

On the morrow before he left he took out two pieces of money, and gave them to the host and said: "Take care of him. Whatever you spend more, when I come again, I will repay you."

Which now of these three, do you think, was neighbor to him that fell among thieves? (Luke 10. 27.)